

Mahavir Seva Trust Presentation



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Wisdom Stories of Abhay Kumar



STORIES FROM AN ANCIENT JAIN SHASTRA

WISDOM STORIES OF ABHAY KUMAR

Among all might in the world, intelligence is the strongest of them all. Even a weak and feeble person can control and rule the earth by his developed intelligence. Man is called an intelligent animal, but all human beings are not equally intelligent. There are only a few intelligent people in the world who have extraordinary intelligence with which they can solve the most difficult problems of the society and the nation with consummate skill and who can help all to flourish. The Chief Minister of Magadh, Abhay Kumar, was a person with such an exceptional talent. He always had a solution for any problem.

According to Jain history, Abhay kumar was the only son of the king of Magadh Shrenik and queen Nanda. Abhay's childhood passed in Nanihal away from the protection of his father. When he came to know that his father was the king of Magadh, he approached him in a special way by maintaining his own self esteem alongwith his mother's pride. By his own unique foresight, cleverness and natural intelligence, he became the Chief Minister of Magadh State while in adolescence only. He took care of the interests of the king as well as the ordinary citizens equally and spent a religious life.

An ardent devotee and follower of Bhagwan Mahavir, Abhay was also an expert diplomat. During his period, Magadh State flourished in all respects. Jain religion got also popular. Non-violence and vegetarianism became specially popular. Here, a few exemplary events portraying his wisdom based on the books like NANDISUTRA KI TIKA, SHRENIK CHARITRA and ABHAYKUMAR CHARITRA are compiled in the form of stories.

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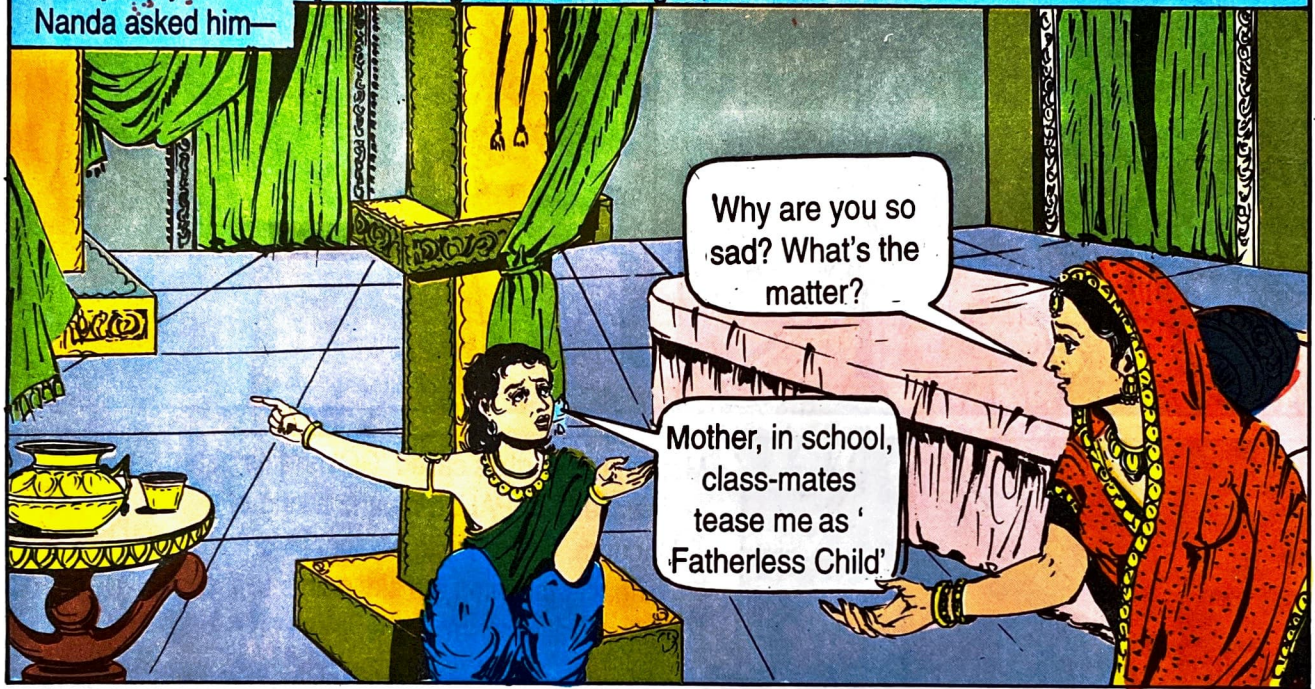
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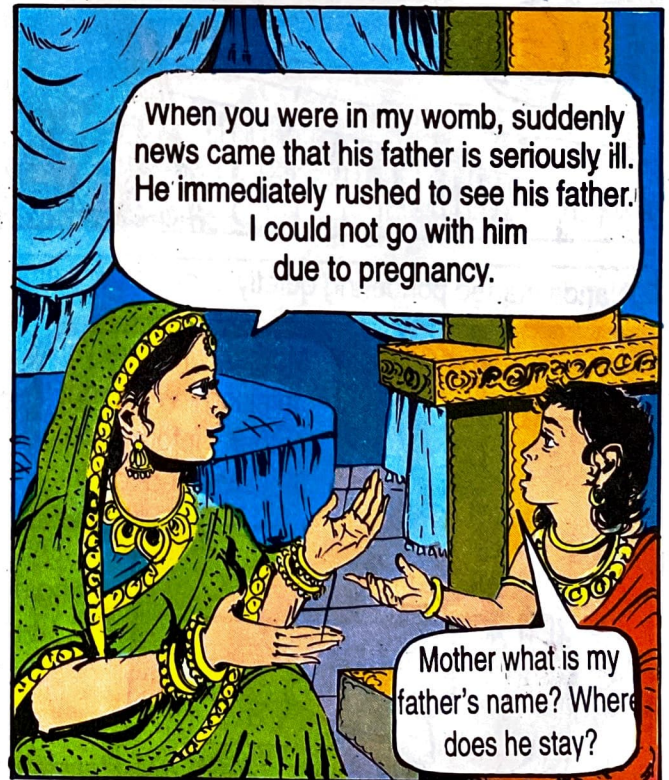
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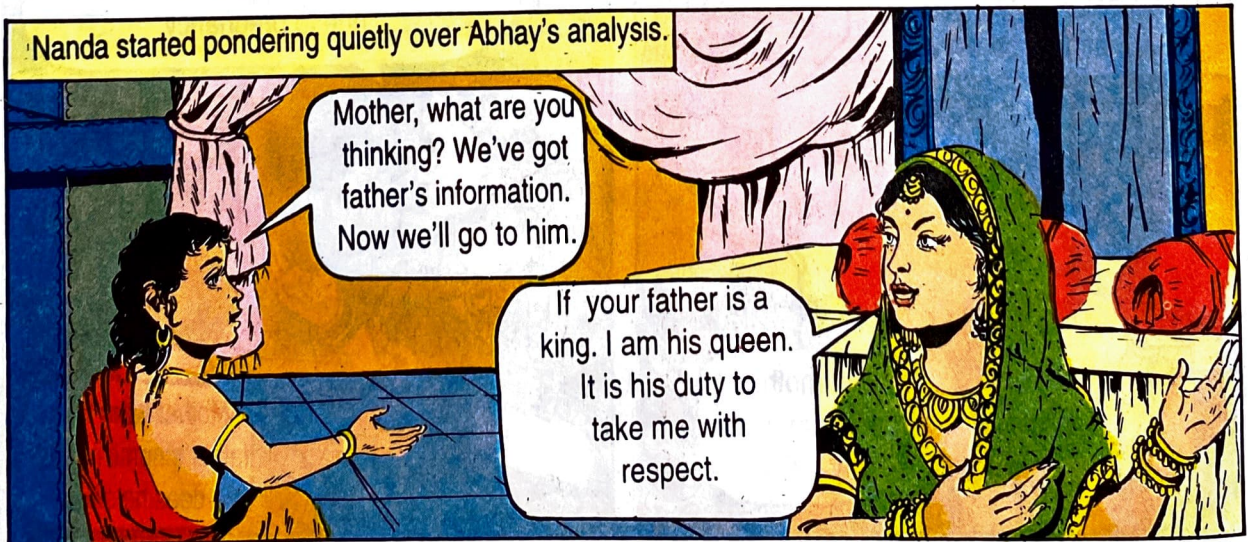
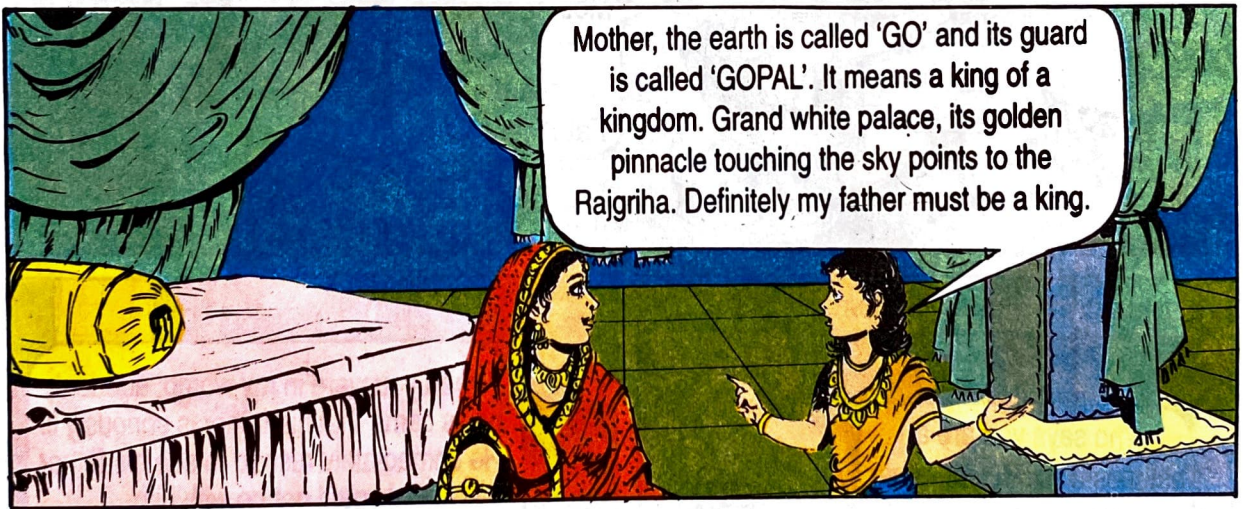
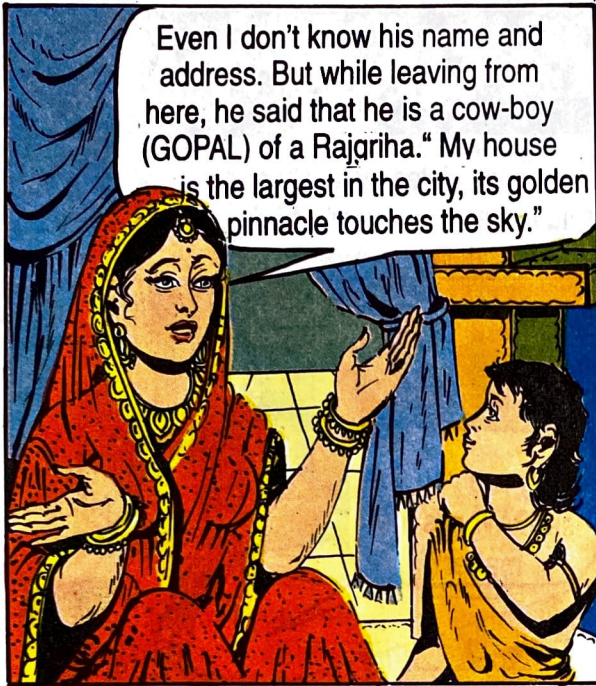
CLEVER ABHAYKUMAR

Abhaykumar, a son of king Shrenik and queen Nanda was appreciated by teachers in school. So class-mates were jealous of him. They started teasing him as 'Fatherless Child'. Annoyed by this, Abhay was sitting at home looking sad. His mother Nanda asked him—

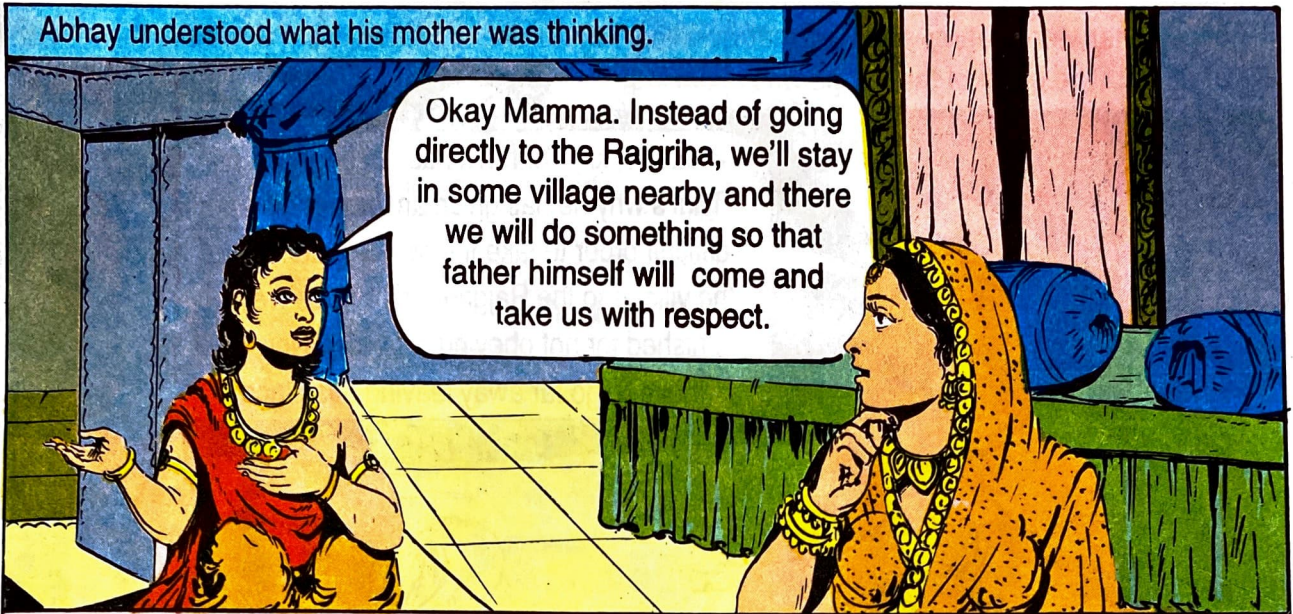


On hearing this, Nanda felt hurt.





Abhay understood what his mother was thinking.



Nanda had a faith in the intelligence of her son. She agreed to go with Abhay.

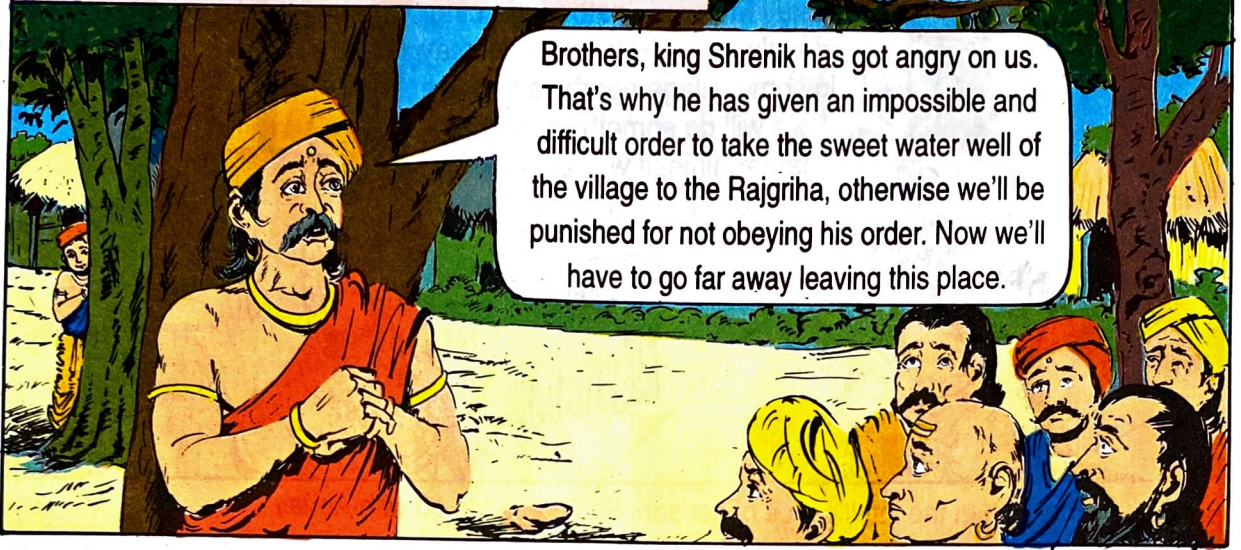
After a journey of many days. Abhay and Nanda reached a village Nandigram located near the Rajgriha.



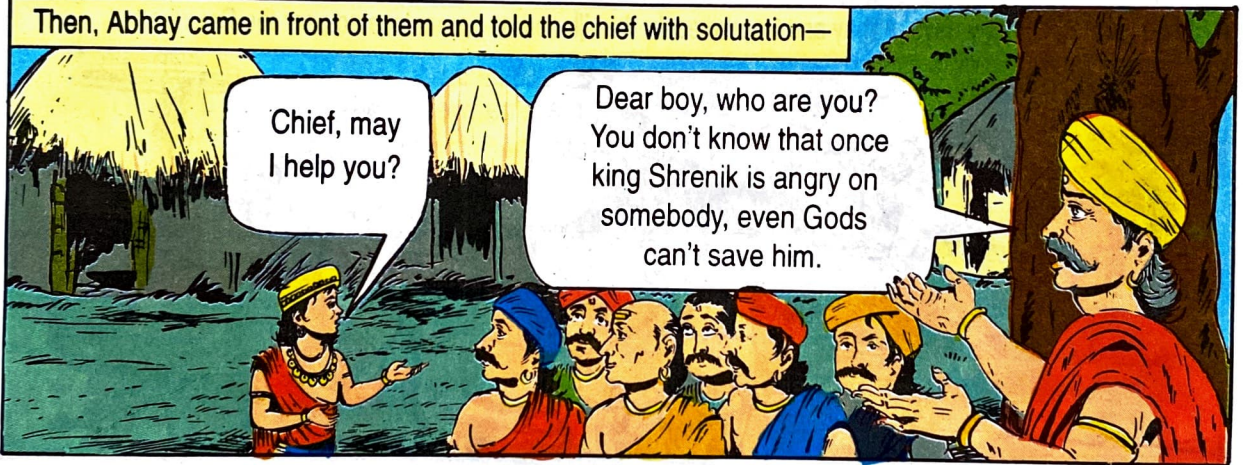
Abhay stayed in a good rest house with his mother. He took bath, put on good clothes and walked towards the village.



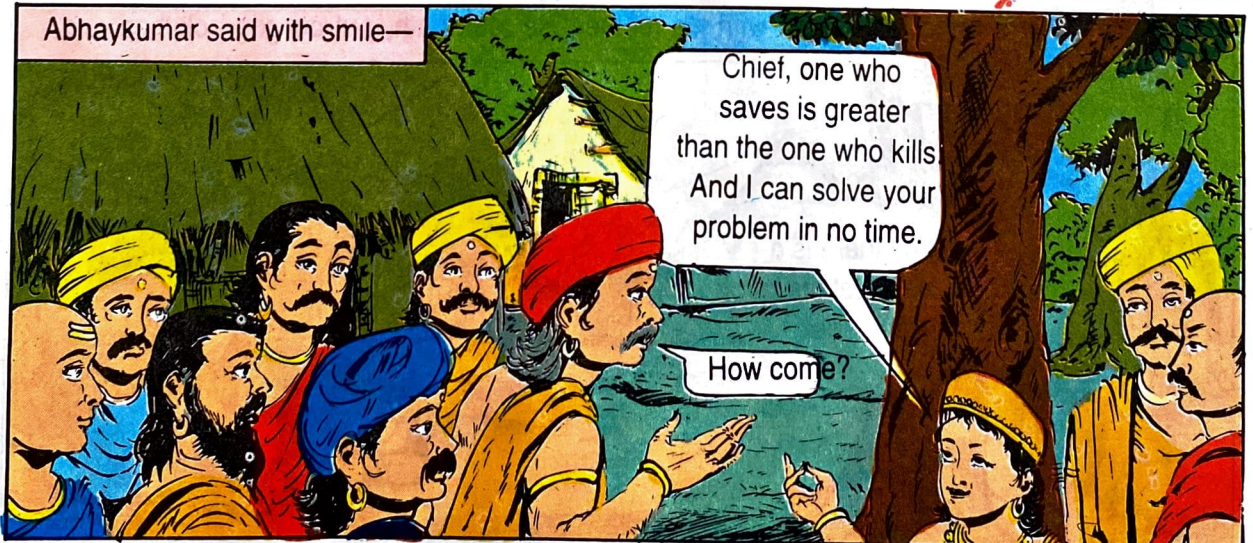
Abhaykumar went nearer and saw that all villagers had gathered under a neem tree, discussing something. The chief of the village was speaking—



Then, Abhay came in front of them and told the chief with solutation—

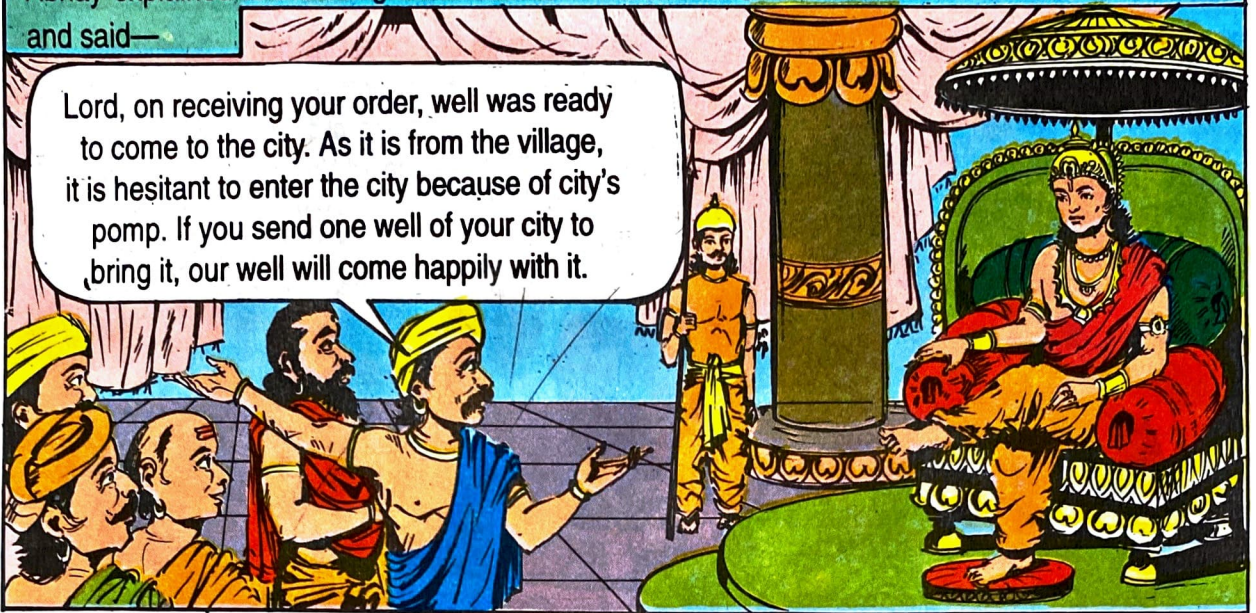


Abhaykumar said with smile—



Abhay explained to the villagers and sent them to the king. Villagers reached the royal court and said—

Lord, on receiving your order, well was ready to come to the city. As it is from the village, it is hesitant to enter the city because of city's pomp. If you send one well of your city to bring it, our well will come happily with it.



King Shrenik was surprised to hear this—

How could these simple villagers give such an intelligent answer? Surely an intelligent mind is behind this.



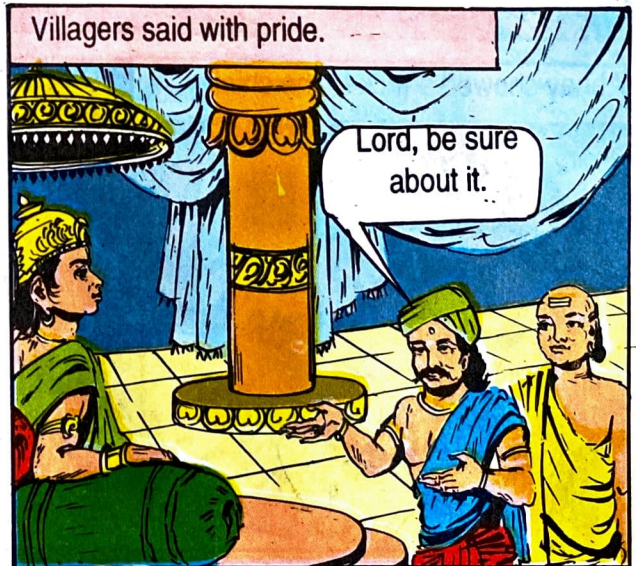
Hiding his thoughts, the king said—

How ! You people are very intelligent. I hope that you will solve other problems too, similarly.



Villagers said with pride.

Lord, be sure about it.



King Shrenik instructed one of his servants to bring a hen. The king gave that hen to the villagers and said—

Train this hen for fighting. But condition is, no other hen should be in front of it while training. We want it to fight in the next competition. If it loses, you will be punished.

Villagers were frightened to hear this. They returned to the village, kept the hen in front of the chief and conveyed the king's order. The chief was worried. He called Abhaykumar and explained the problem to him—

How can a single hen learn fighting?
What should we do?

Chief, this is not a big problem. Just now I'll solve it.

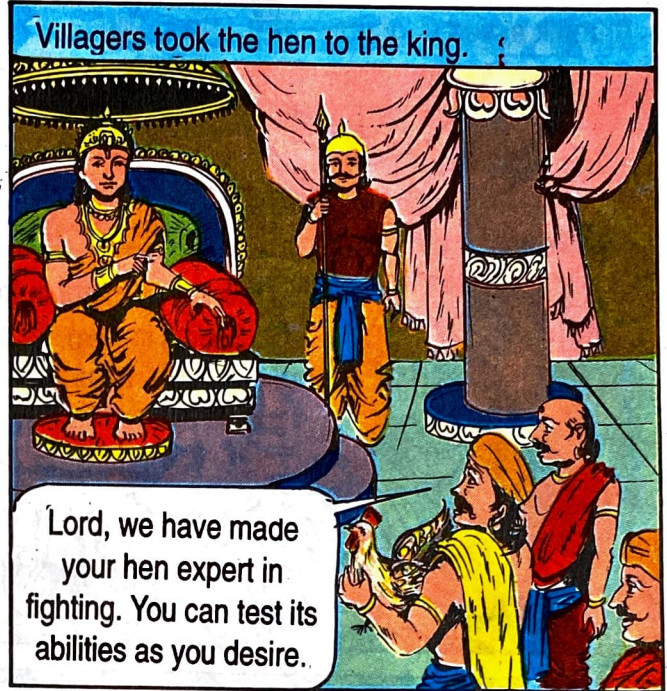
Abhay showed a trick to the chief—

Leave this hen in front of a mirror. Thinking his own image as another hen, he will learn to fight. Within few days he'll be expert in dual fight.

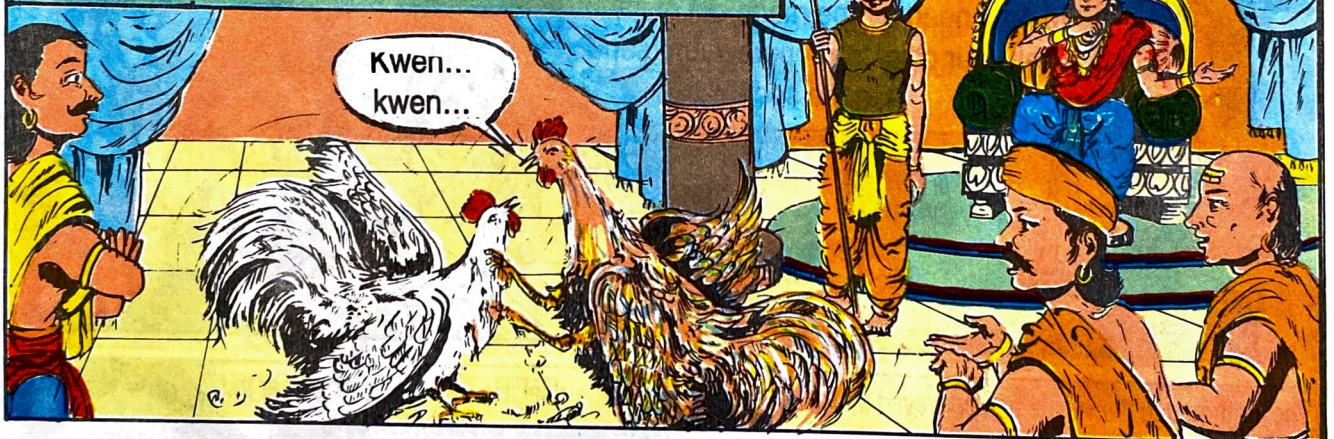
Excellent !



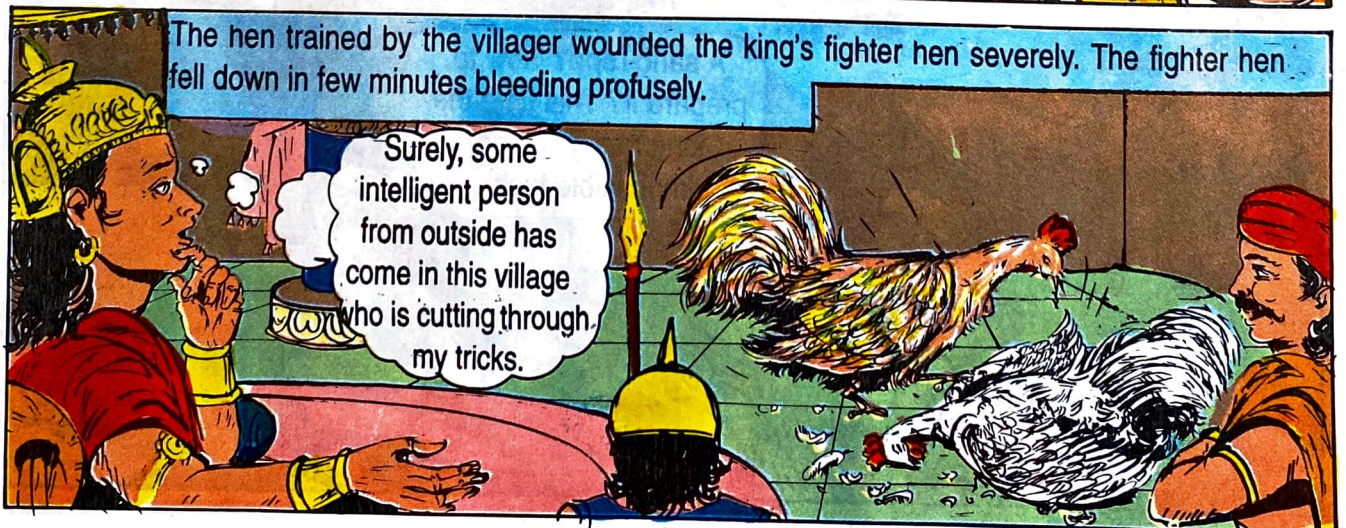
And the hen became an expert in dual fighting.

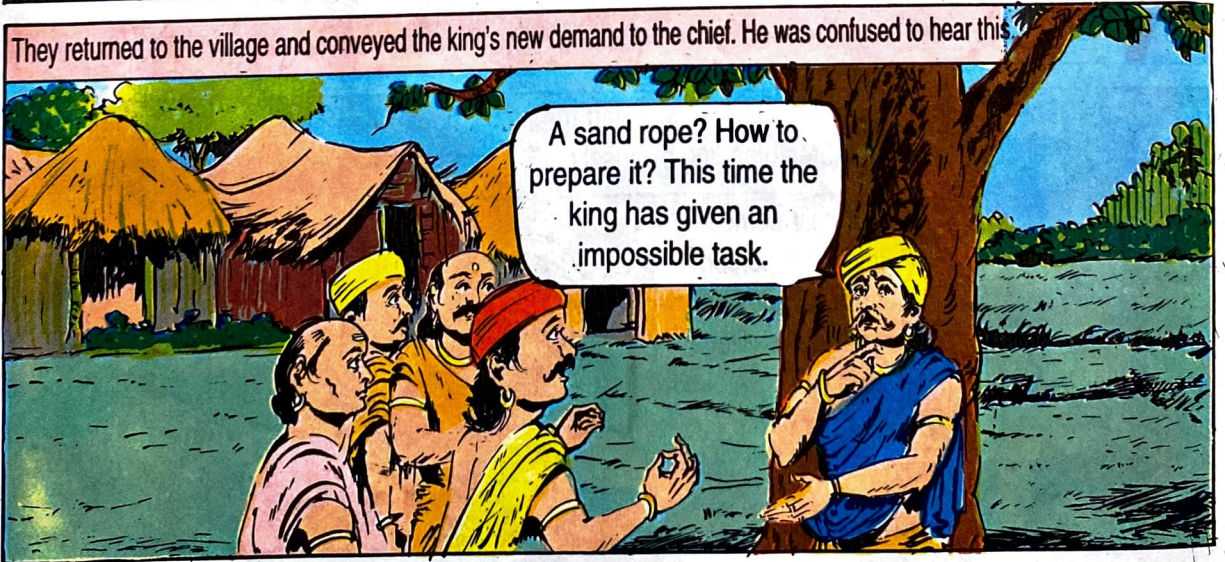
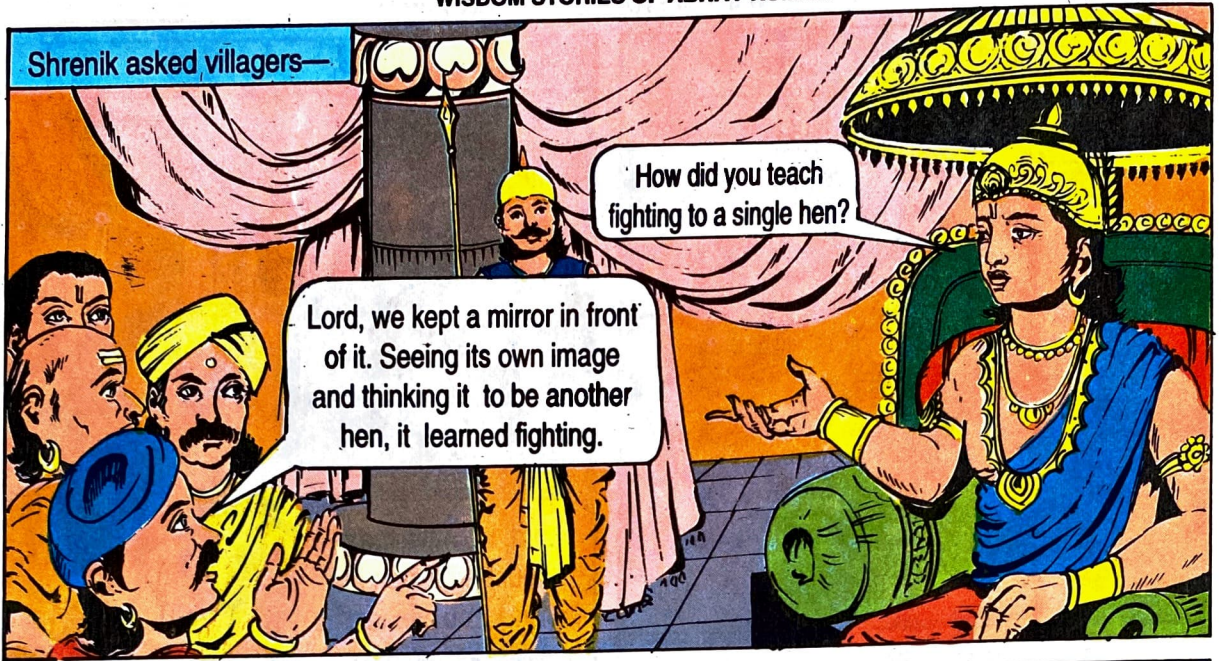


The king immediately called for a fighter hen and left it in front of this hen. This hen got wild on the fighter hen.



The hen trained by the villager wounded the king's fighter hen severely. The fighter hen fell down in few minutes bleeding profusely.





The chief himself went to Abhaykumar and told him about the new problem



Abhaykumar thought for a while. Then he explained something to the villagers and said—



Abhay's mother Nanda was getting information about these events. One day she told Abhaykumar—



4-5 days later. Nandigram's villagers reached the royal palace of Shrenik and said—



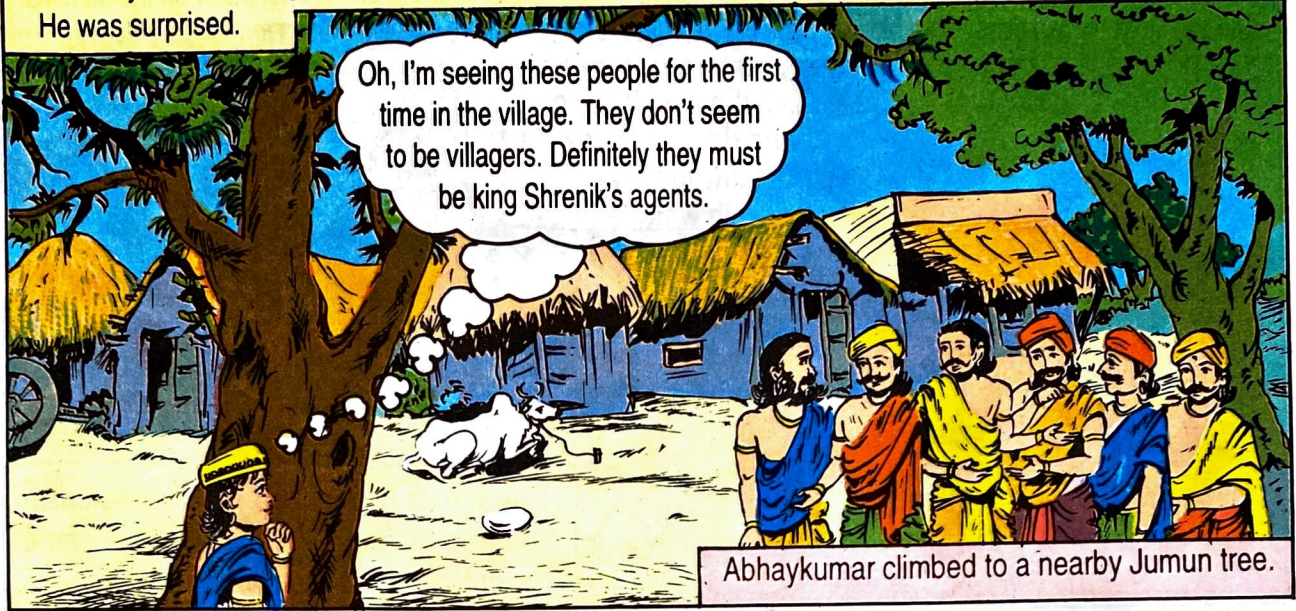
On hearing the villagers, Shrenik was confident that some very clever person has come to the village who is making his tricks unsuccessful. He said—



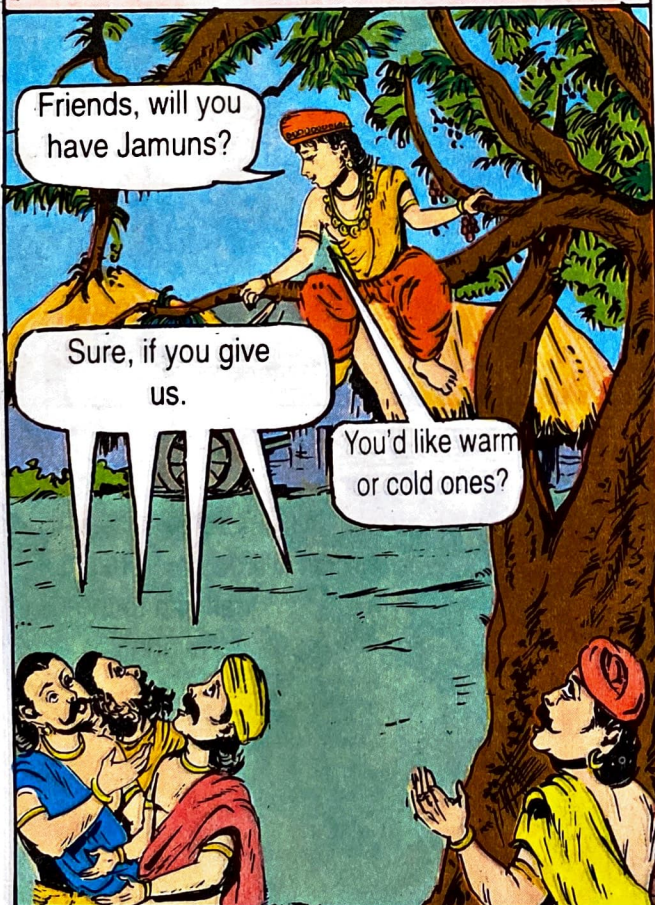
Here, villagers returned and told Abhaykumar—



Next day 6-7 secret agents reached Nandigram in villagers' dresses. When clever Abhaykumar saw them. He was surprised.



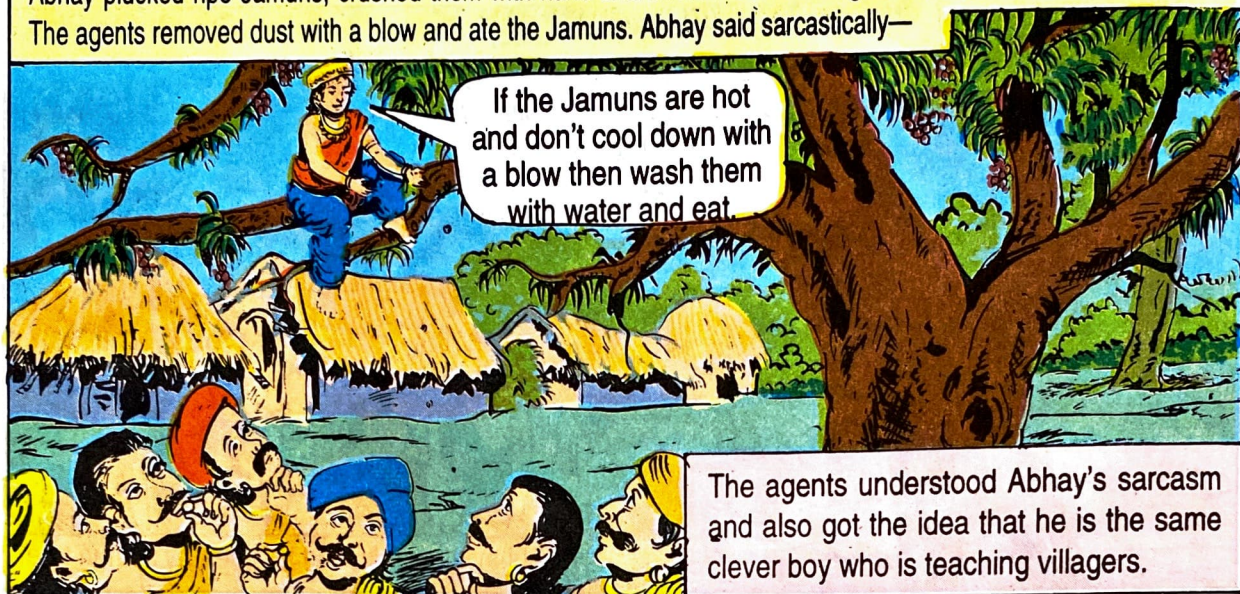
When Abhaykumar heard them he was sure that they were the king's secret agents. He said—



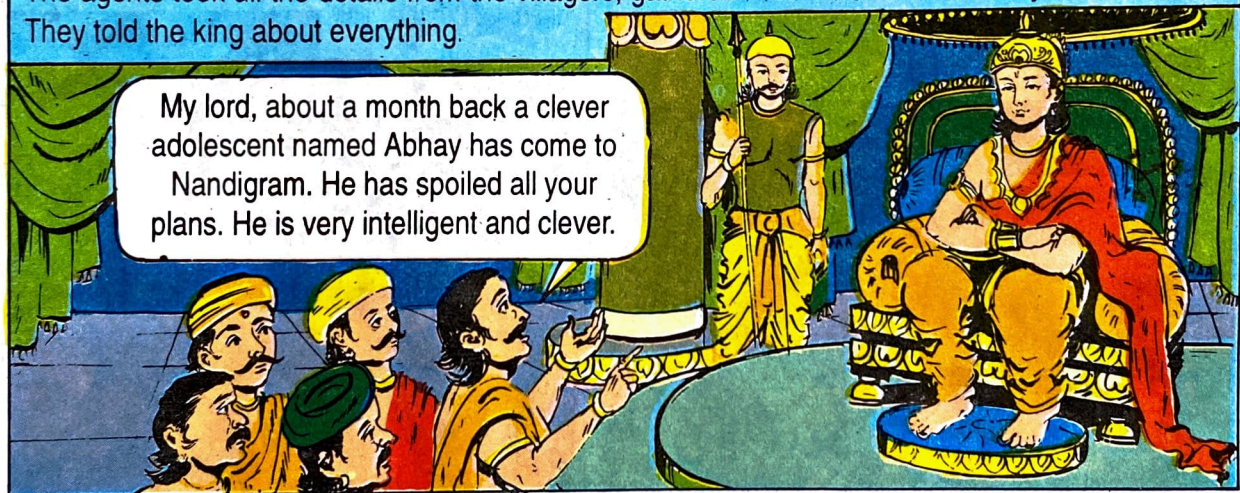
The secret agents couldn't understand the hidden meaning. But they said—



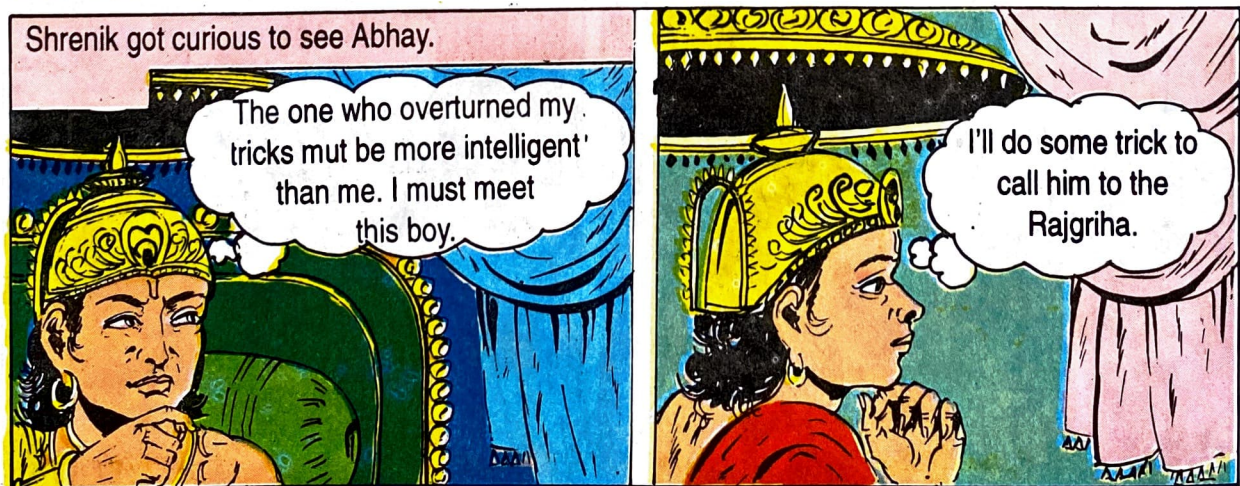
Abhay plucked ripe Jamuns, crushed them with hand and threw them on the ground. Dust stuck on the Jamuns. The agents removed dust with a blow and ate the Jamuns. Abhay said sarcastically—



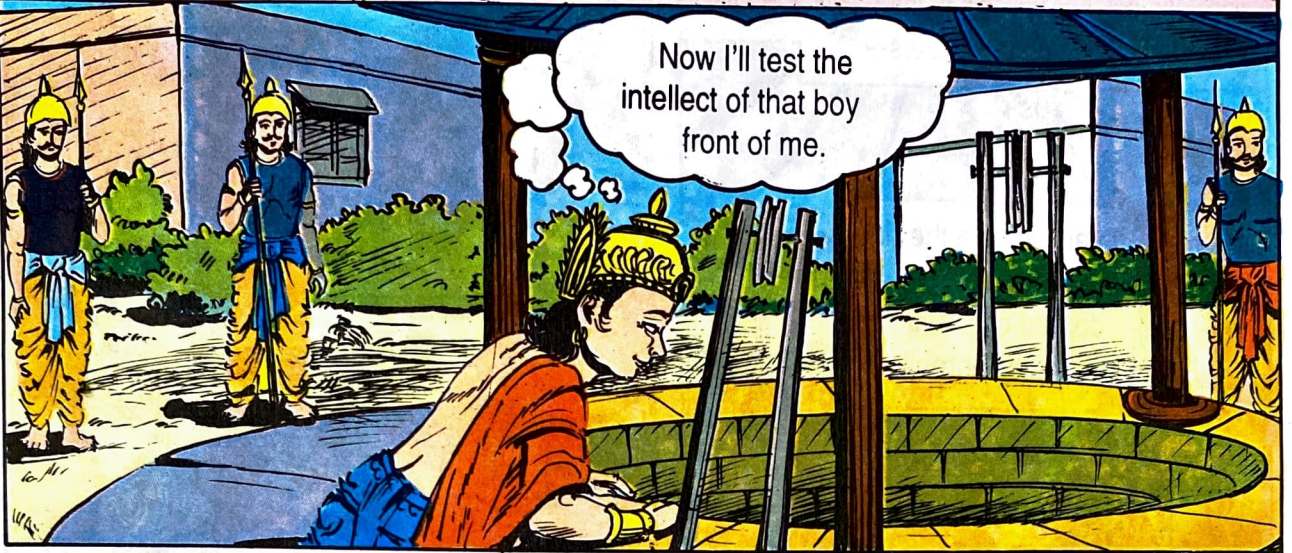
The agents took all the details from the villagers, gathered information about Abhay and returned. They told the king about everything.



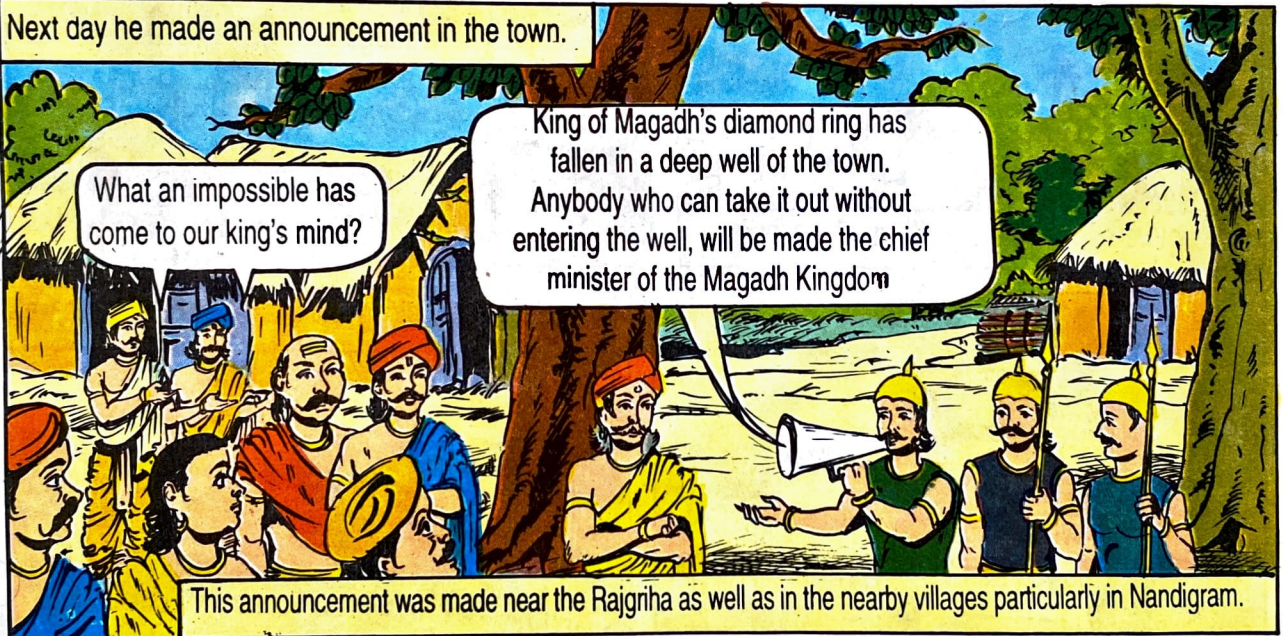
Shrenik got curious to see Abhay.



Shrenik designed a plan and threw his diamond ring in a deep dry well of the town.

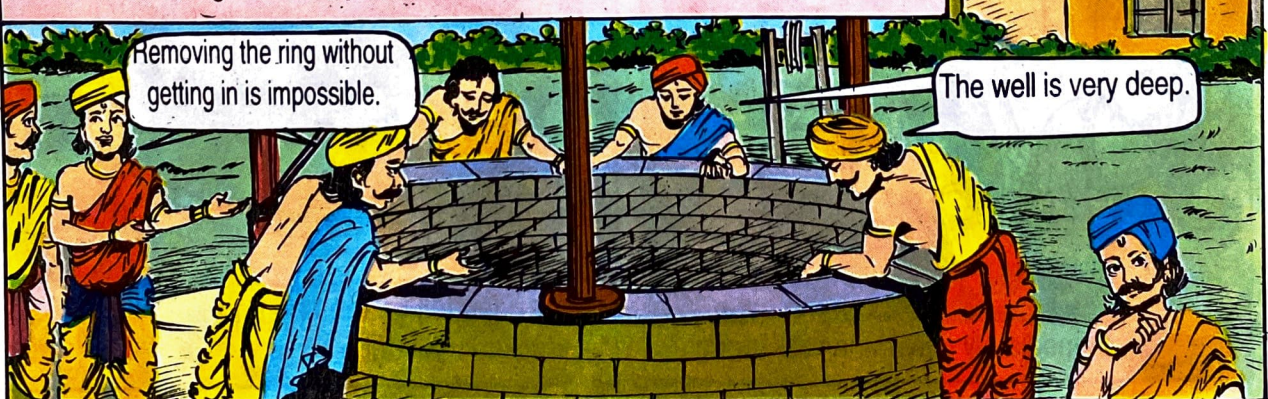


Next day he made an announcement in the town.



This announcement was made near the Rajgriha as well as in the nearby villages particularly in Nandigram.

Hearing the announcement, people started gathering near the well to try their luck by trying to remove the ring. But everyone got confused seeing the deep dry well.



Many days passed but no one could remove the ring. One day Abhay came to the Rajgriha. He went near the well and told the soldiers—



I can remove the ring from the well. But I'll do that only in front of king Shrenik.

The soldiers immediately informed the king.

Shrenik was eagerly waiting. He immediately arrived by a chariot and told Abhay—



Child, will you remove the ring? Don't delay. Do it fast.

My lord, I require few things.

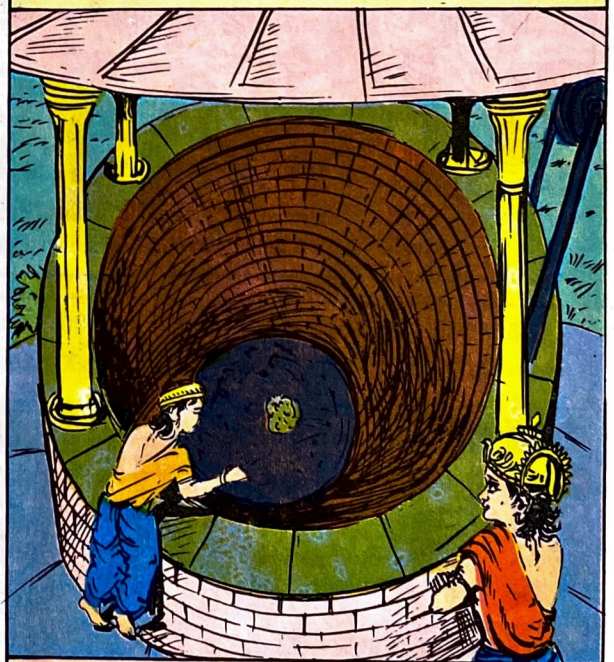


What things do you want?

I want little cow-dung.

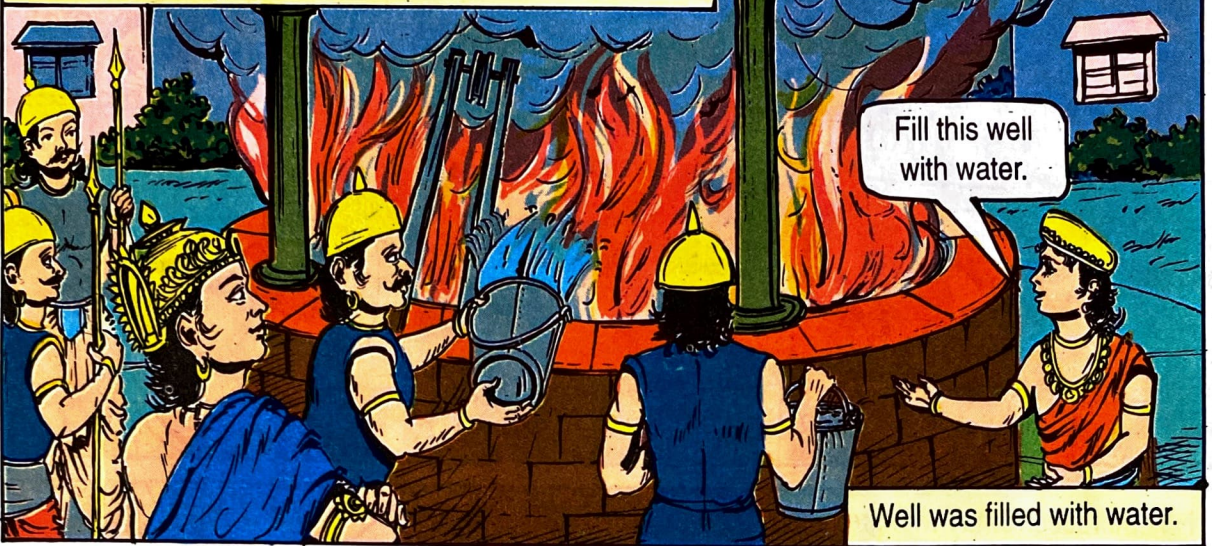
Immediately cow-dung was brought.

Abhay targeted the ring and threw cow-dung in the well.

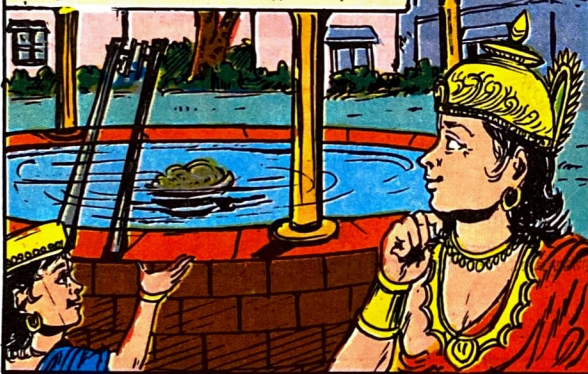


Cow-dung fell on the ring and it stuck to cow-dung.

Then Abhay asked for dry grass. He threw it in the well and lit it. With heat, cow-dung dried up soon. Then Abhay said—



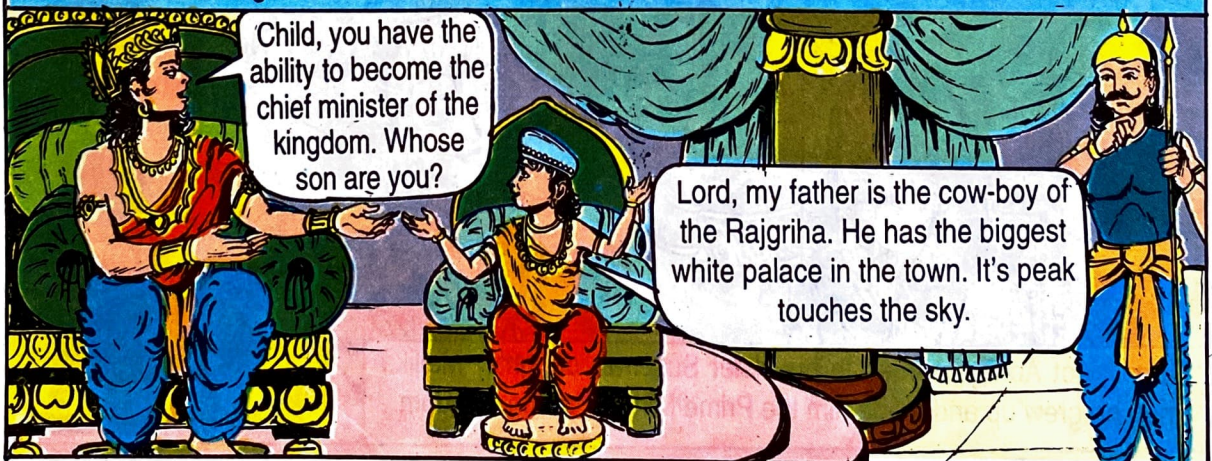
When well was filled with water to the brim, dry cow-dung started floating on the water.



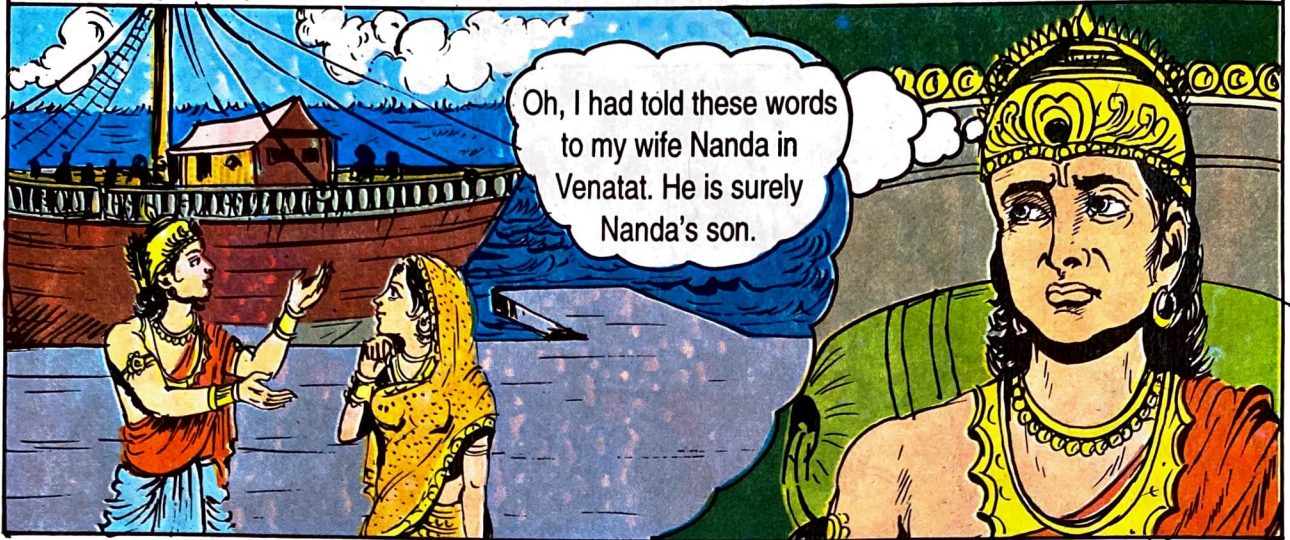
Abhay took out dry cow-dung from the water. He removed the ring from it and gave it to the king. King Shrenik was amazed.



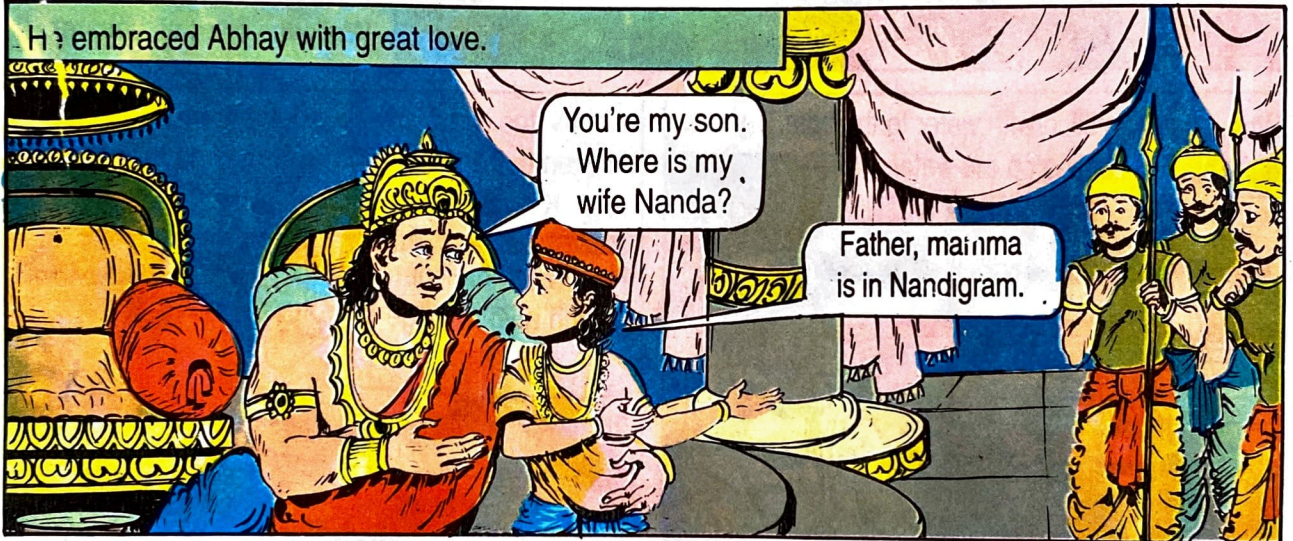
King Shrenik was very much impressed with Abhay's intellect. He brought him to the royal palace in the chariot. Shrenik gave him a seat near him and said—



On hearing Abhay's words, Shrenik was lost in the past. He remembered his talk with Nanda.



He embraced Abhay with great love.



Shrenik went to Nandigram along with Abhaykumar with grandeur and brought Nanda to the palace with respect.

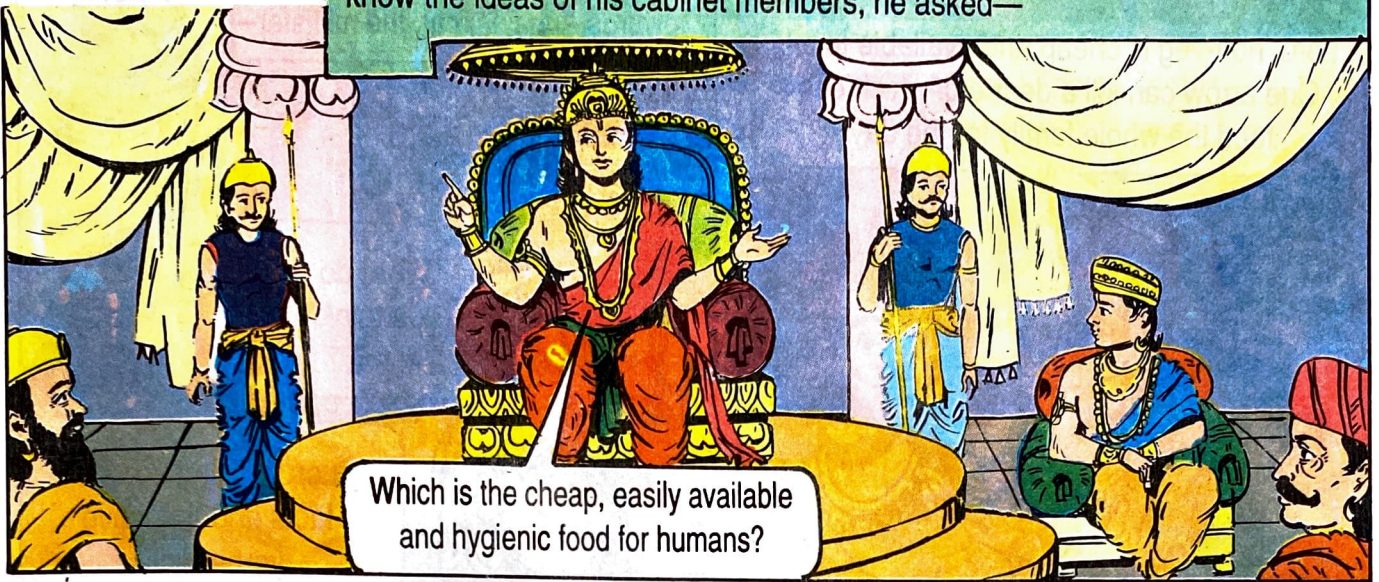


Shrenik got Abhay married to his sister Susena's daughter Mallika when he grew up and made him the Prime Minister of the kingdom.

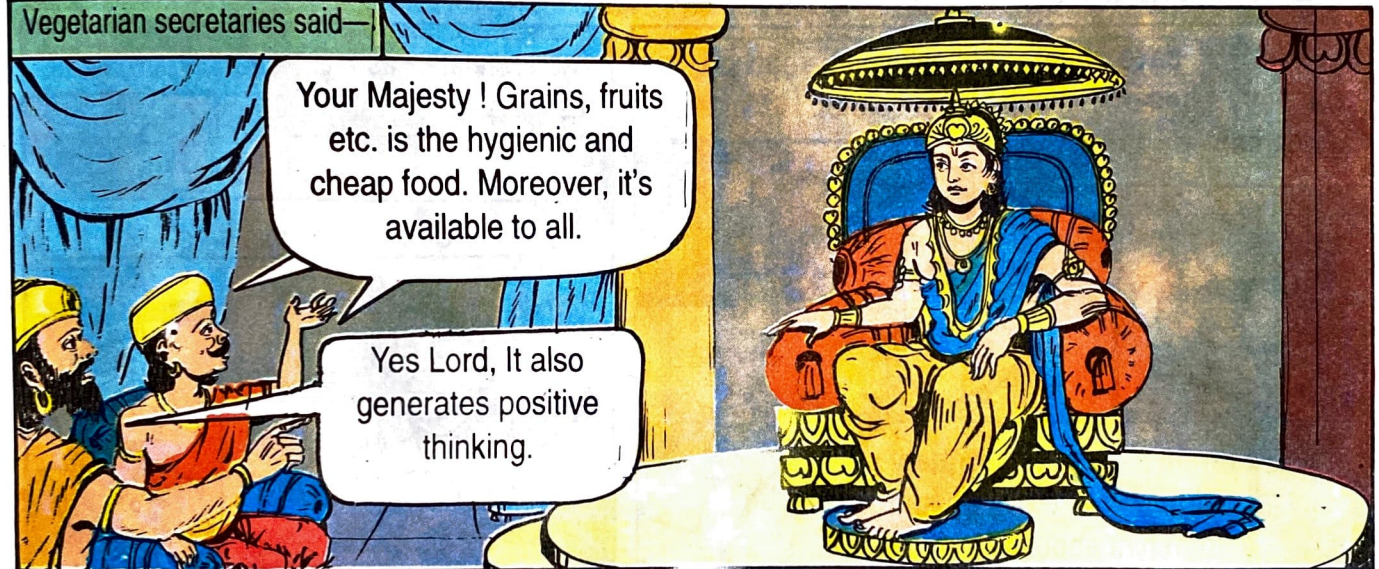
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TWO POUNDS OF MEAT

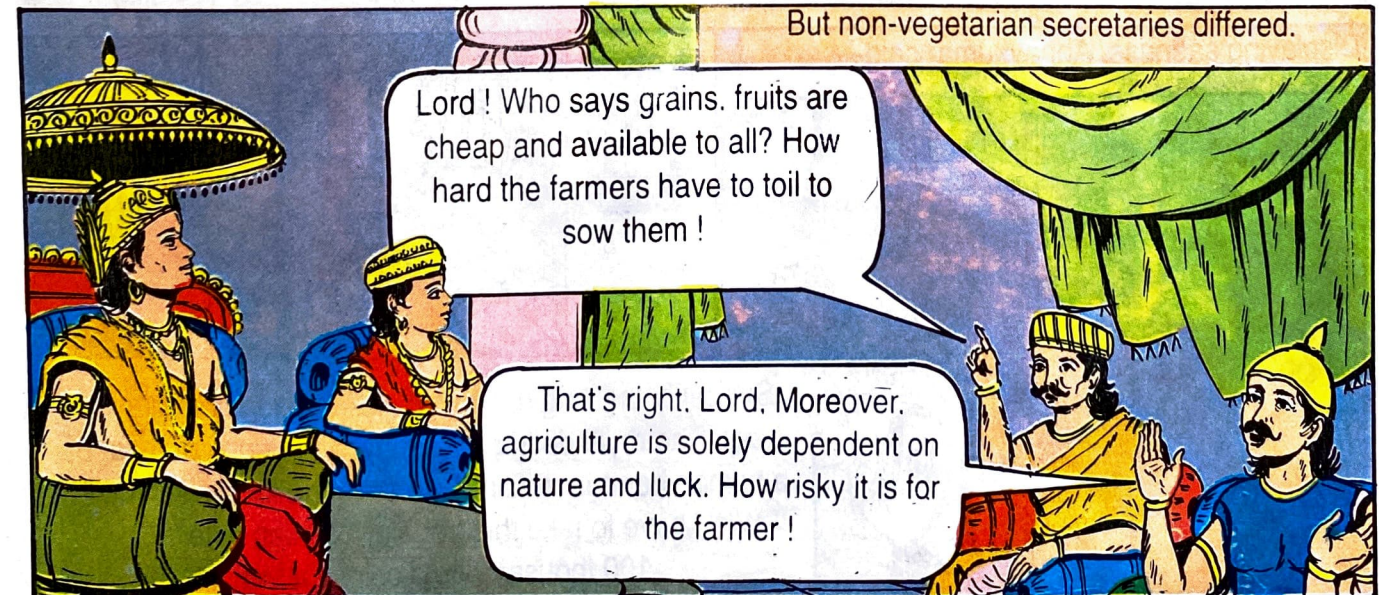
Once king Shrenik thought of clamping prohibition on Nonvegetarian food. To know the ideas of his cabinet members, he asked—



Vegetarian secretaries said—



But non-vegetarian secretaries differed.



Lord, non-veg is cheap and available to all. One arrow can kill a deer etc. which can feed the whole family for the day.



Listening to these arguments, the king looked towards Abhaykumar, the minister—



What do you think, Abhay?

Lord, I'll find out the facts and then give you a reply.

About 15 days later, Abhaykumar reached a secretary's home at midnight in a chariot. He told the watchman—



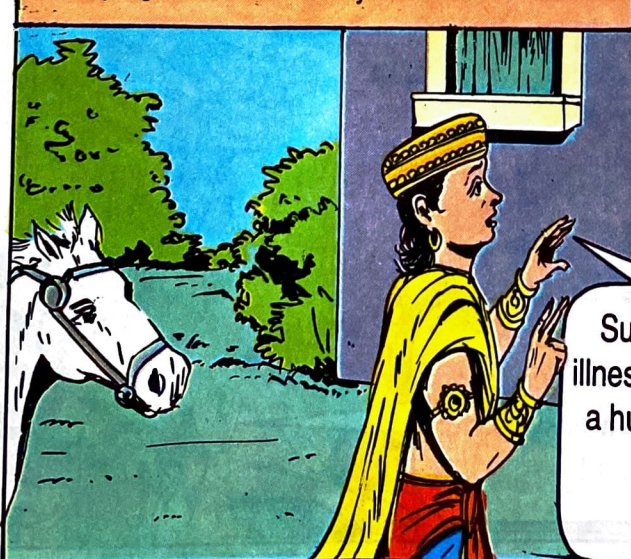
I want to see the secretary just now, Wake him up and inform him about my arrival.

The secretary was frightened to know about the minister's arrival.



Sir! You, at this time!

Displaying sadness. Abhaykumar said—



Suddenly the king has fallen sick due to some grave illness. The royal doctor says that two pounds of meat of a human heart is required. To save the king's life you'll have to take this trouble. You can take 100 thousand gold coins for that.

The secretary was horrified on listening this. Sweating, he said—



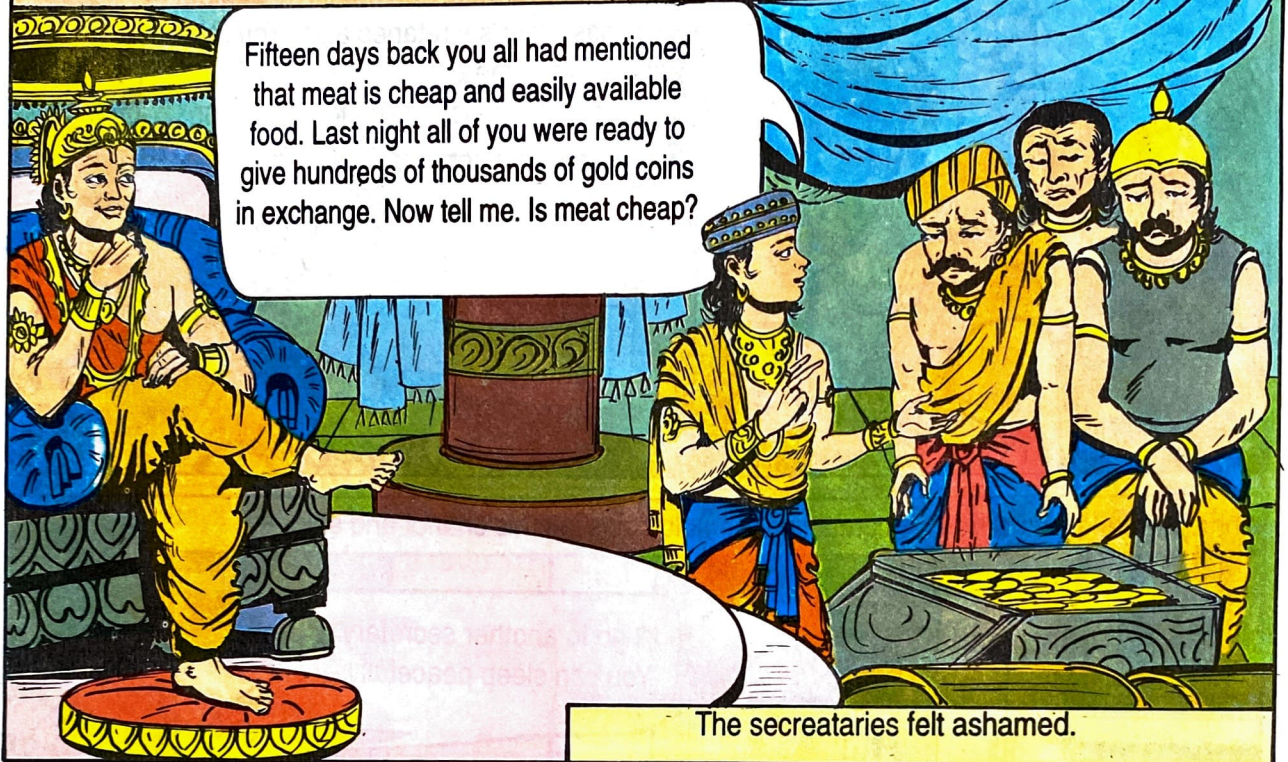
Abhaykumar loaded the box containing the gold coins into his chariot and said—



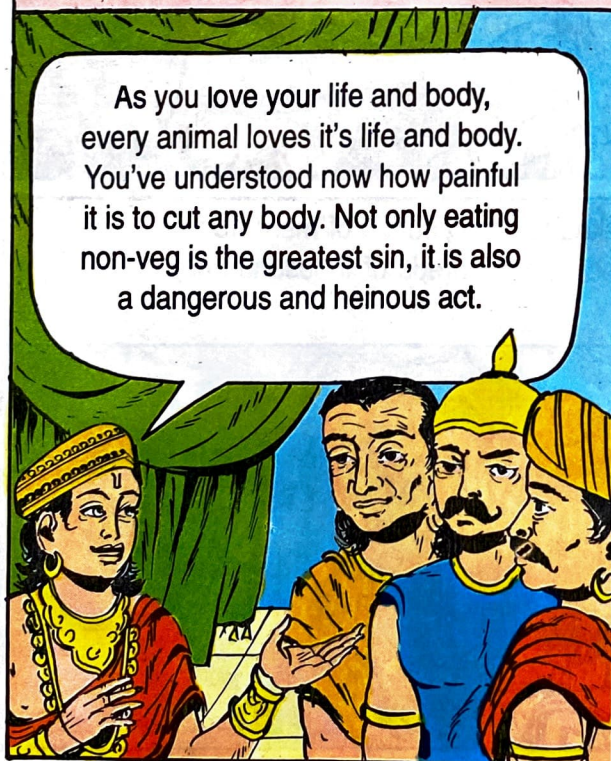
This way Abhay went to other secretaries and asked for two pounds of meat from everyone. But, no one was ready. Everyone gifted with hundreds of thousands of gold coins to avoid the trouble.



Next day, the king Shrenik came to the parliament. The secretaries in favor of non-veg were surprised to see him alright. Abhay told them in front of all the wealth given by them—



Abhay told the whole cabinet—

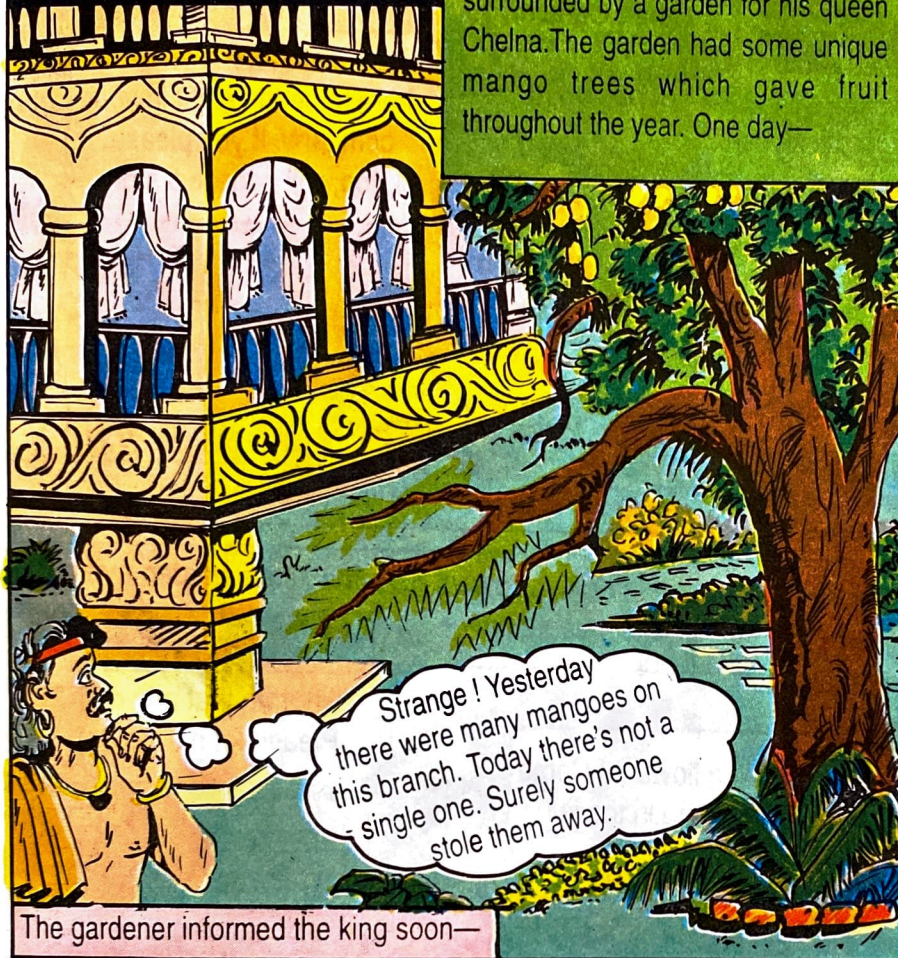


Impressed by Abhay's trick, the secretaries accepted unanimously—



SMART THIEF

The king Shrenik got prepared a palace standing on a single pillar surrounded by a garden for his queen Chelna. The garden had some unique mango trees which gave fruit throughout the year. One day—

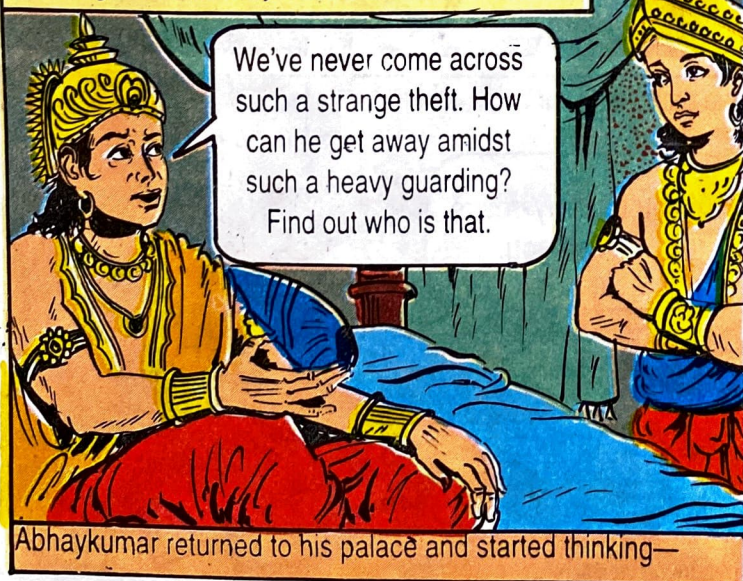


The gardener informed the king soon—

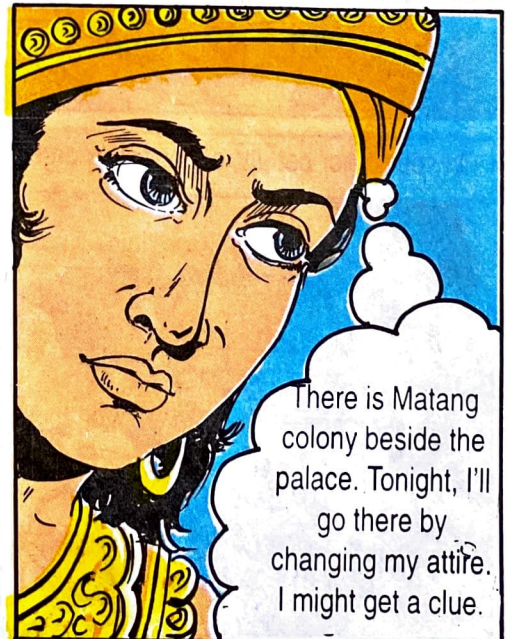
The king put guards surrounding the garden. But again on next morning, he found the mangoes stolen.



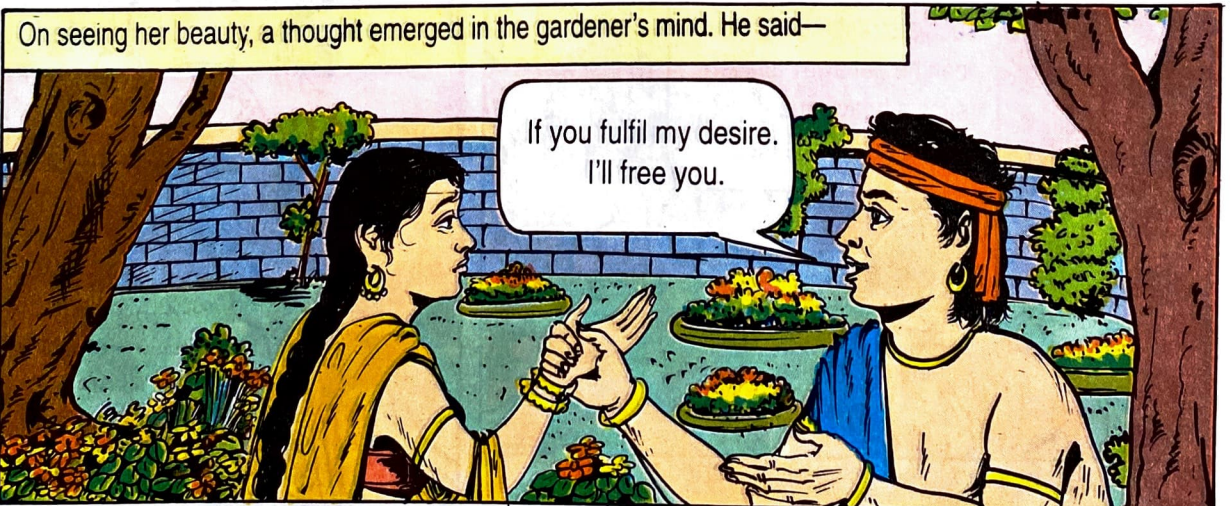
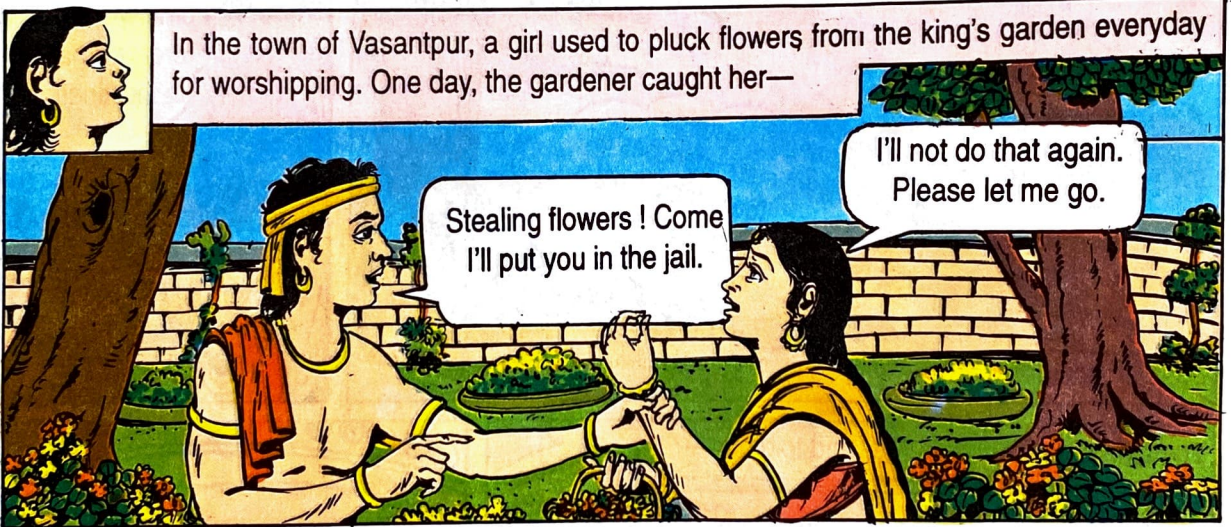
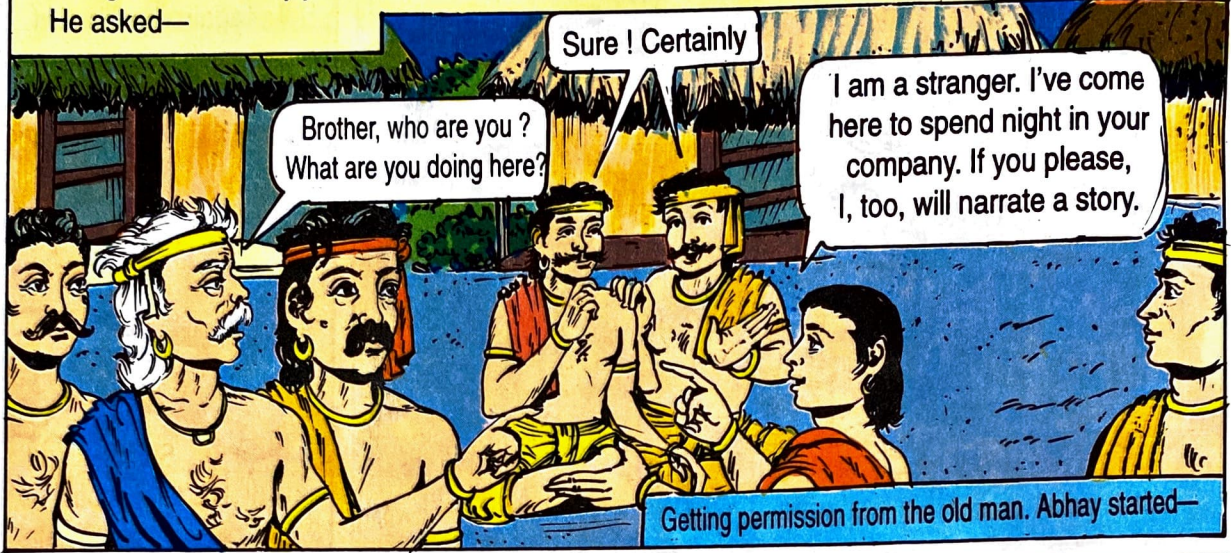
The king called Abhaykumar and told him—



Abhaykumar returned to his palace and started thinking—



At night, Abhay reached the central place of that colony. The people were passing time telling stories. Abhay joined them. An old man was surprised to see him. He asked—



The girl initially hesitated, but after pulling courage, she said—



The gardener agreed to this.

He said—

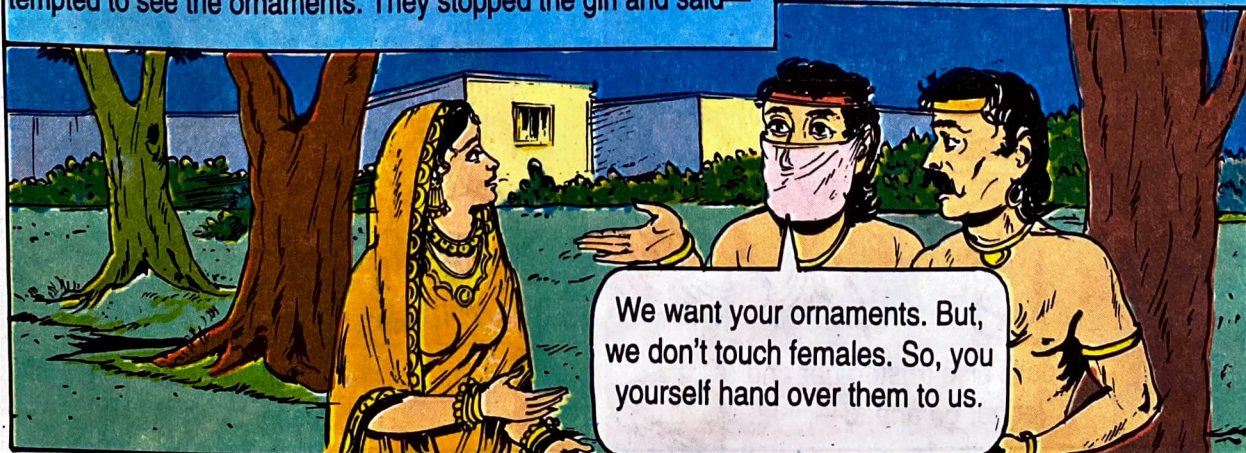


The girl assured him and went away.

After some time, the girl got married to a boy named Vimal. On their first married night, she narrated the whole episode to her husband and asked for his permission. Vimal was impressed by his wife's candidness and told her—



The adorned girl started towards the gardener's house. On the way, two thieves saw her. They were tempted to see the ornaments. They stopped the girl and said—



The girl fearlessly told the thieves—

Brothers, I am bound by a promise now. I have to go in this way only. While returning, I'll surely hand over the ornaments to you.



The thieves were impressed by her courage. They trusted her word and let her go after taking assurance from her.

Going ahead after getting rid of the thieves, she came across a man-eating devil. He told her—

O delicate girl ! I am hungry since many days. I'll eat you.



The girl told the devil in sweet words—

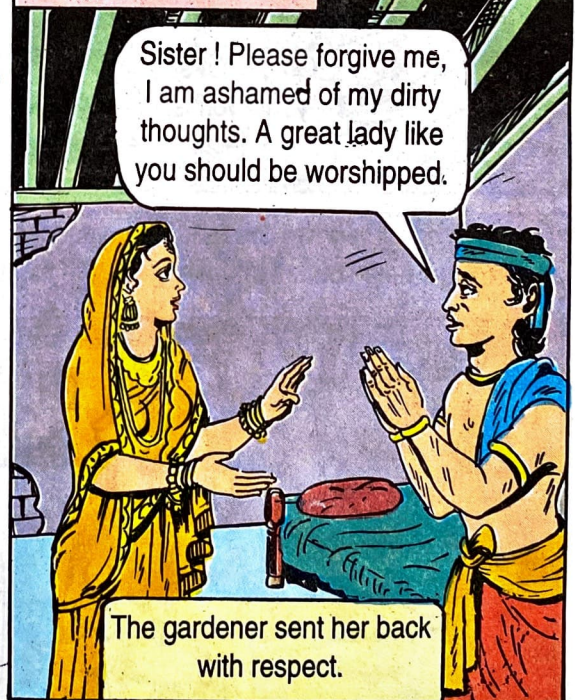
O king of devils ! It will be my fortune if my body can be of use to you. But now, please let me go because I have to keep a promise.



The devil also trusted her and let her go ahead—

The girl reached the gardener's home and reminded him of her promise. He felt very sorry about himself and said—

Sister ! Please forgive me, I am ashamed of my dirty thoughts. A great lady like you should be worshipped.

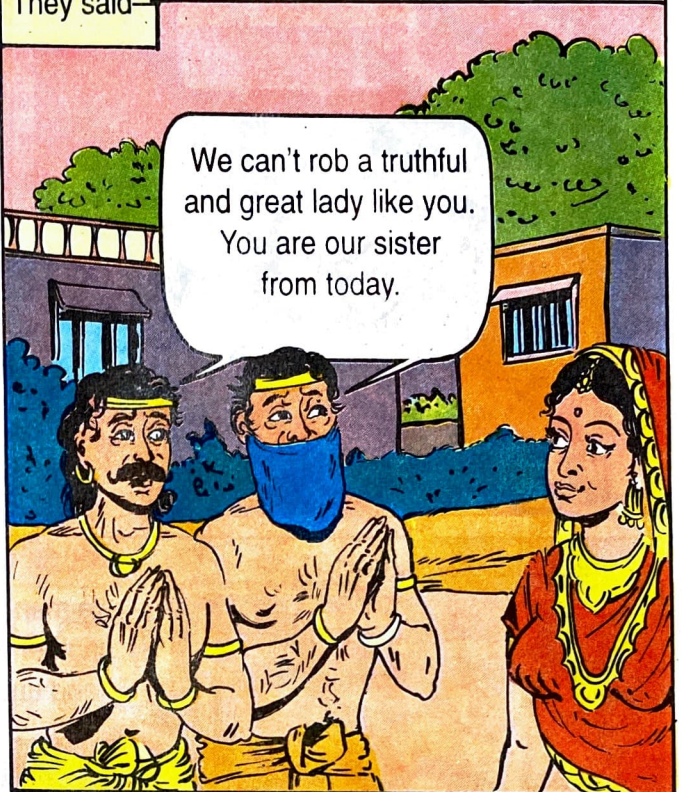


The gardener sent her back with respect.

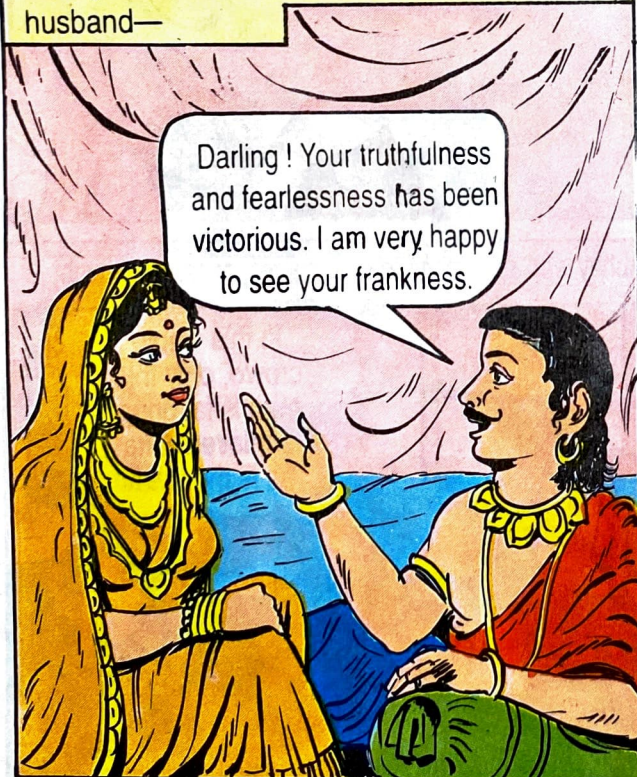
On her way back, the girl came to the devil—



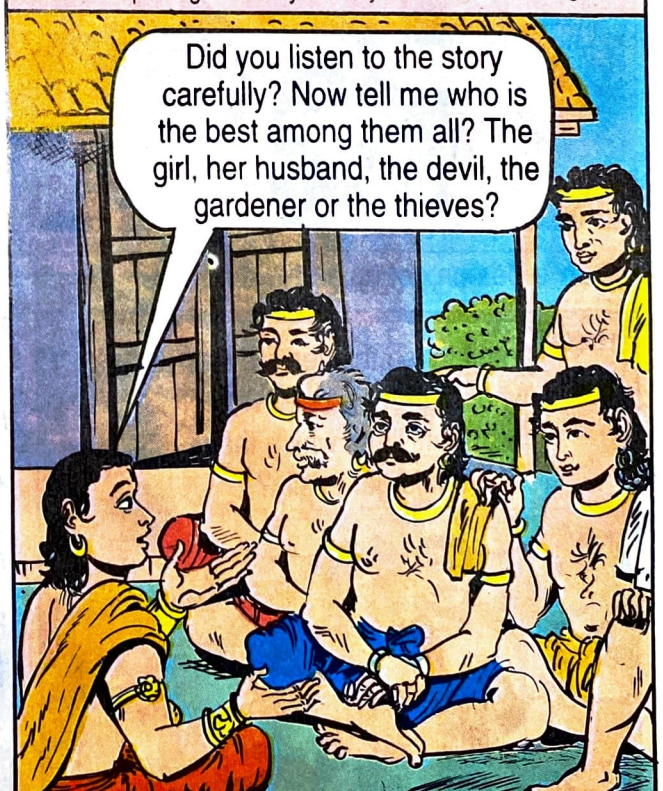
When she reached the thieves, they, too, changed their minds on seeing her truthfulness. They said—



The girl narrated the whole thing to her husband—



After completing the story. Abhay asked the Matangs—



The females in the audience said immediately—

The girl's adventure
is the best.



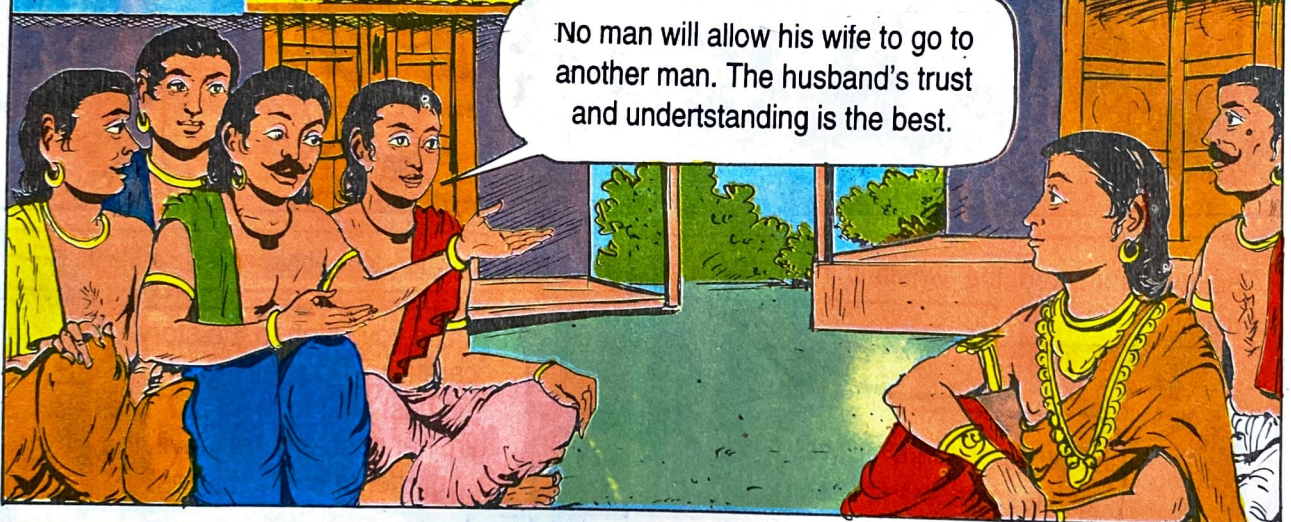
The elders declared the devil the greatest—

Even after being hungry
he let the delicate girl
go. The devil's charity
is the best.



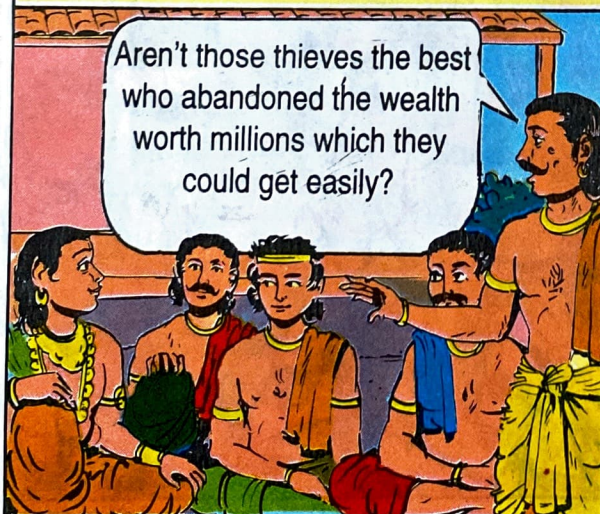
The youngsters said—

No man will allow his wife to go to
another man. The husband's trust
and understanding is the best.



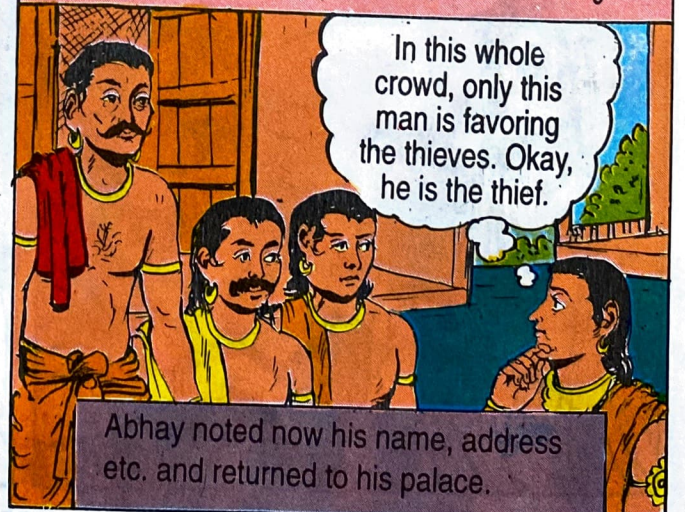
Then, a person got up and told Abhay—

Aren't those thieves the best
who abandoned the wealth
worth millions which they
could get easily?



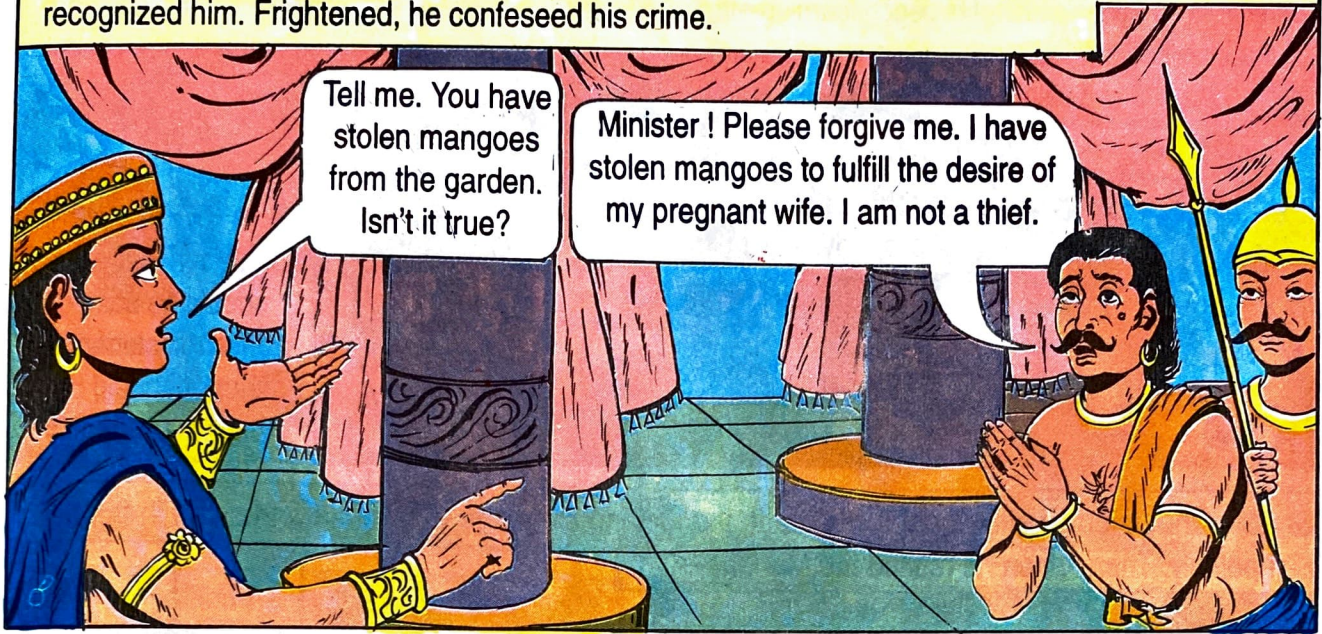
Abhay was astonished to hear his response. He thought—

In this whole
crowd, only this
man is favoring
the thieves. Okay,
he is the thief.

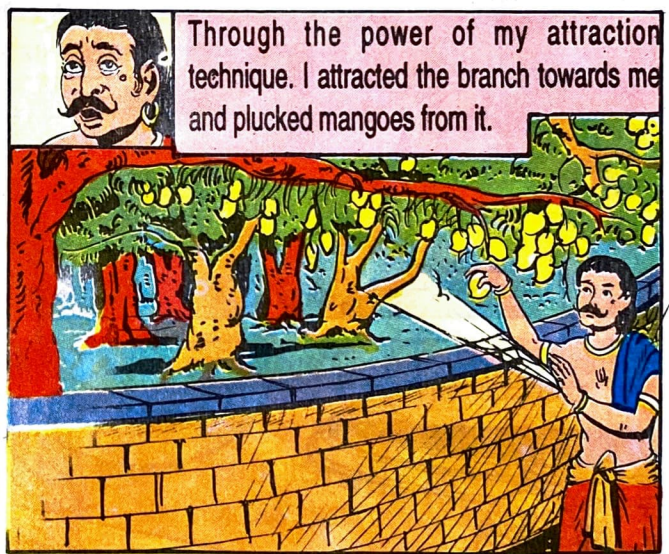
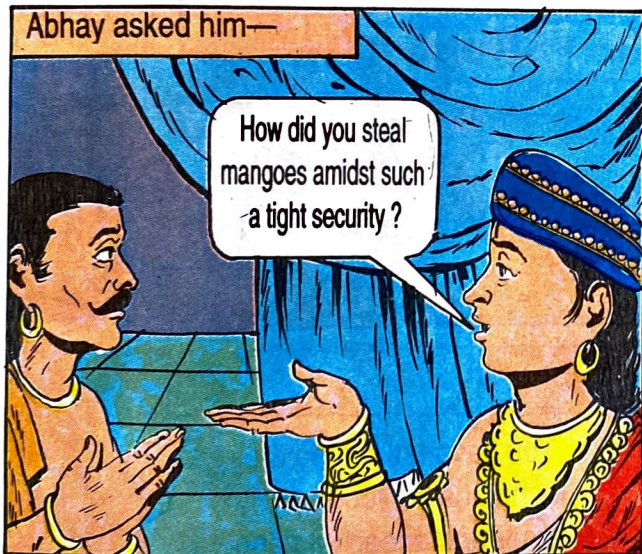


Abhay noted now his name, address
etc. and returned to his palace.

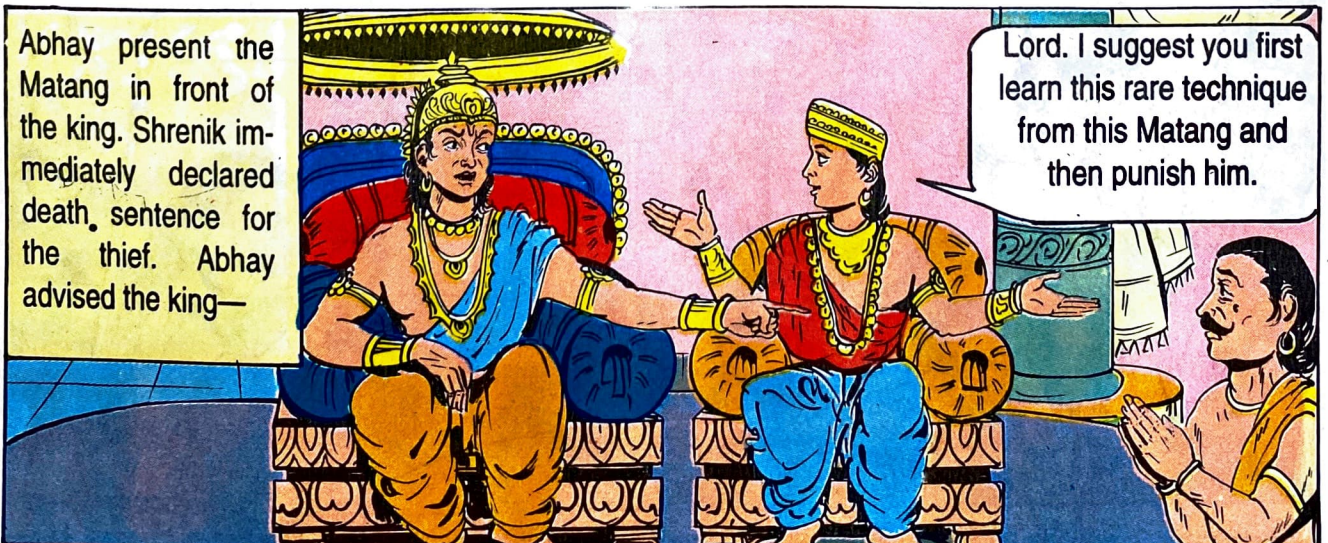
Next day, Abhay got that Matang arrested and interrogated him. On seeing Abhay there, Matang recognized him. Frightened, he confessed his crime.



Abhay asked him—



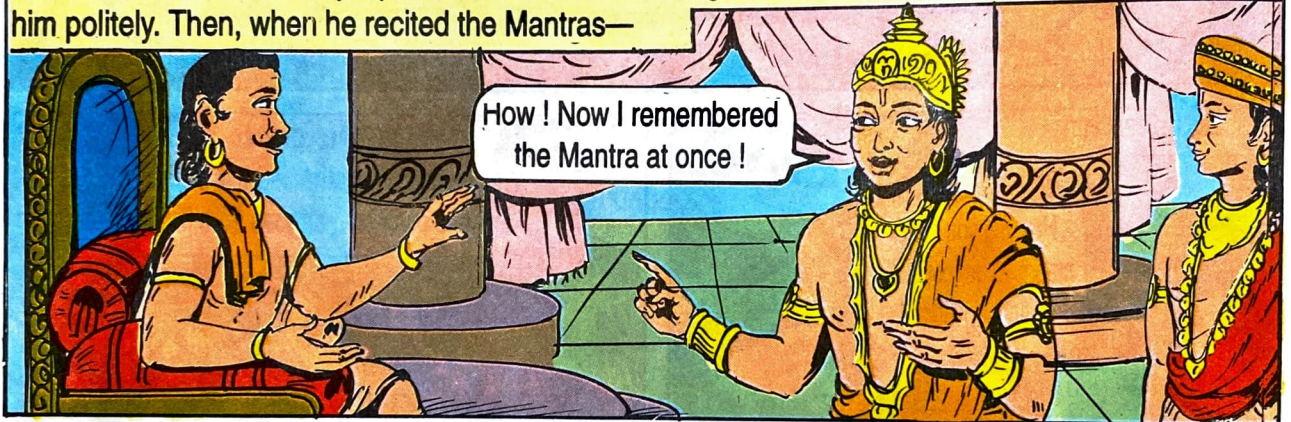
Abhay present the Matang in front of the king. Shrenik immediately declared death sentence for the thief. Abhay advised the king—



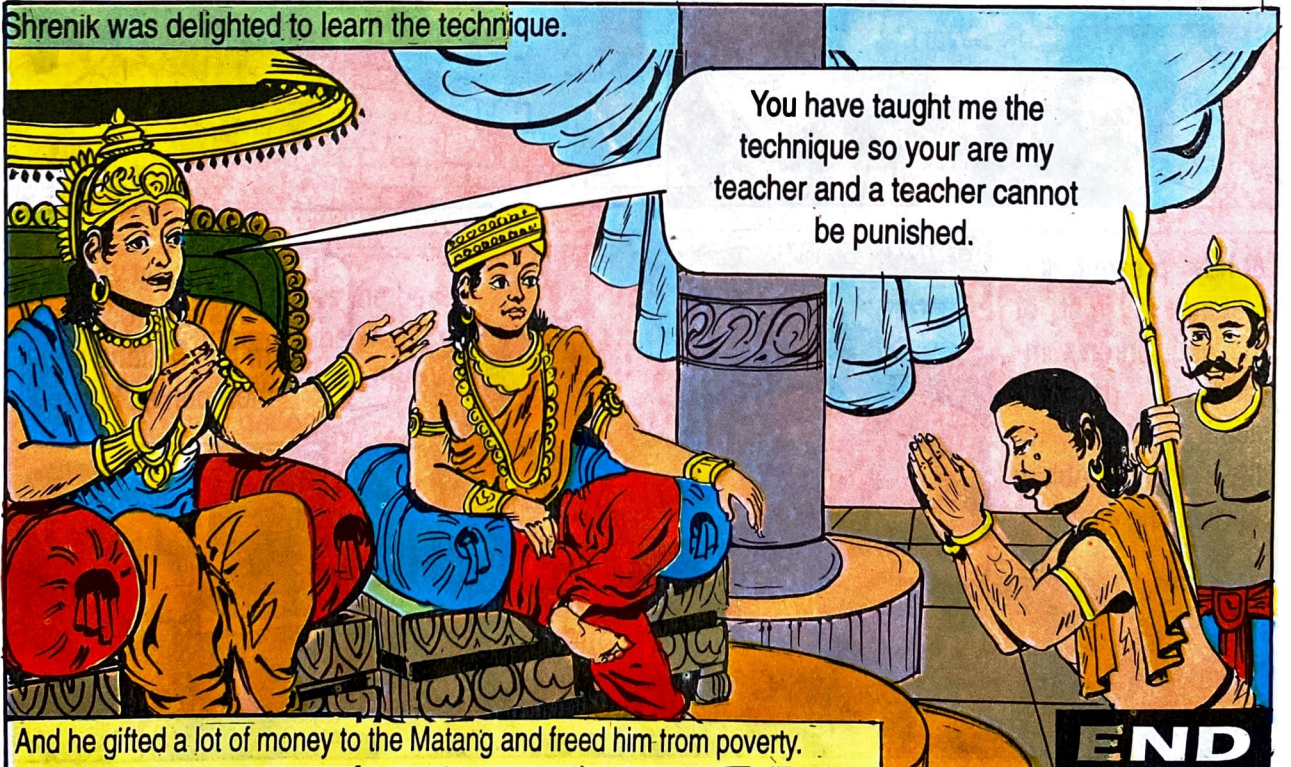
Shrenik liked Abhay's idea. He began learning attraction technique from Matang. Matang sat below in front of the king and started teaching him chanting of Mantras. But the king could not remember them. He got wild on Matang and said—



Shrenik understood Abhay's point. He made the Matang sit on the royal chair and stood in front of him politely. Then, when he recited the Mantras—



Shrenik was delighted to learn the technique.

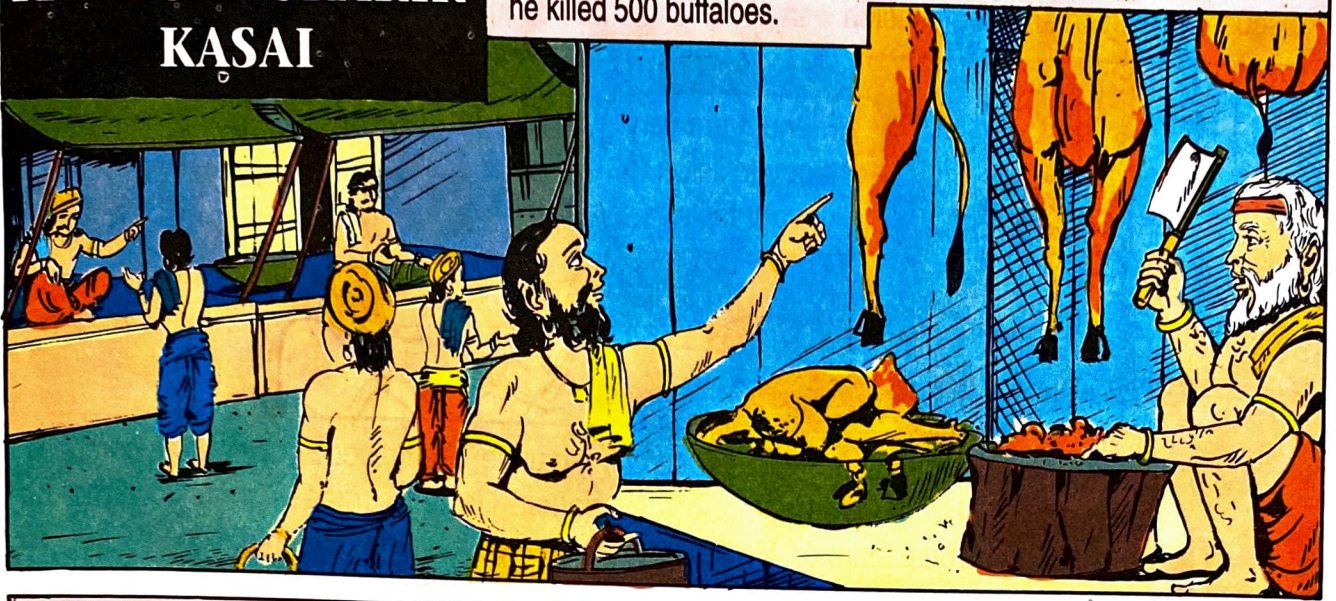


And he gifted a lot of money to the Matang and freed him from poverty.

END

KAAL SHAUKARIK KASAI

There lived a Kasai, named Kaal Shaukarik, in Rajgriha. Everyday he killed 500 buffaloes.



King Shrenik tried hard to stop him from doing that activity full of violence. he even threatened him of death sentence and kept him in a deep, dry well. But there also, he started making toy buffaloes from sand and then breaking their heads with a small straw of stick. He thought—

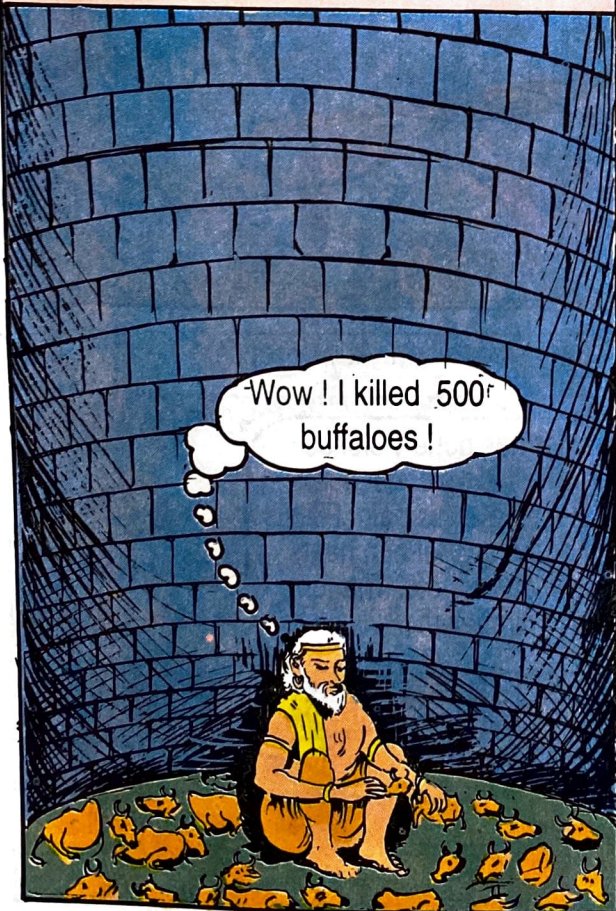
This made king Shrenik very sorry. He told Abhaykumar—

Stop this violence in Rajgriha anyhow and change the mind of Kaal Shaukarik Kasai.

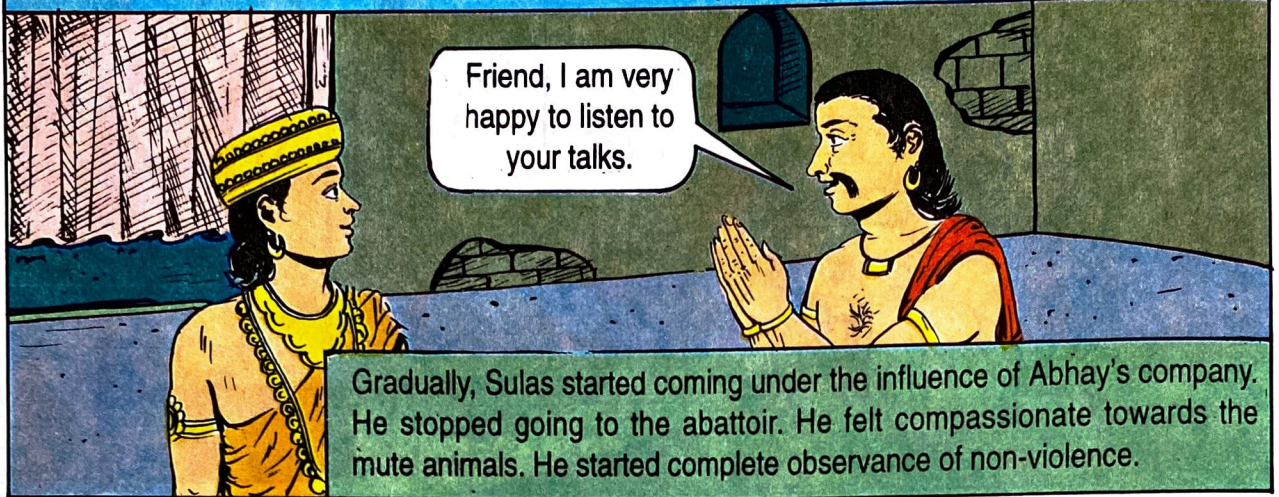
Lord, Violence has spread in every drop of his blood. Now he can't be modified. But, we can plant the seeds of compassion in the mind of his son Sulas and stop this chain of violent ritual.



He thought of a plan to make Sulas non-violent.



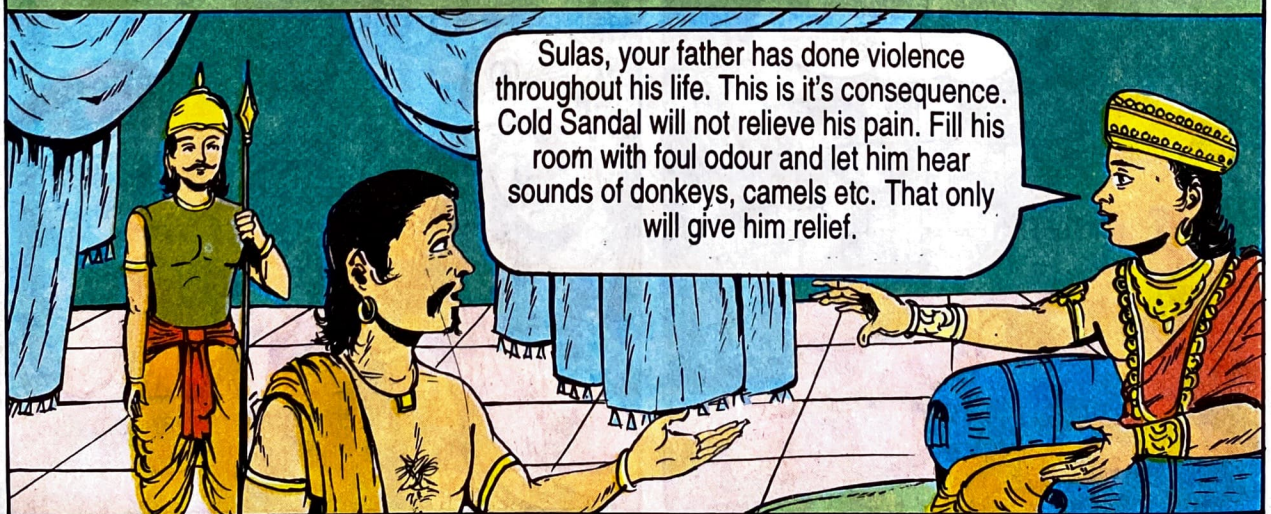
As per his plan, Abhay made friendship with Sulas. He started visiting Sulas's home and discussing religion and compassion with him. He told him about the preaching of Lord Mahavir.



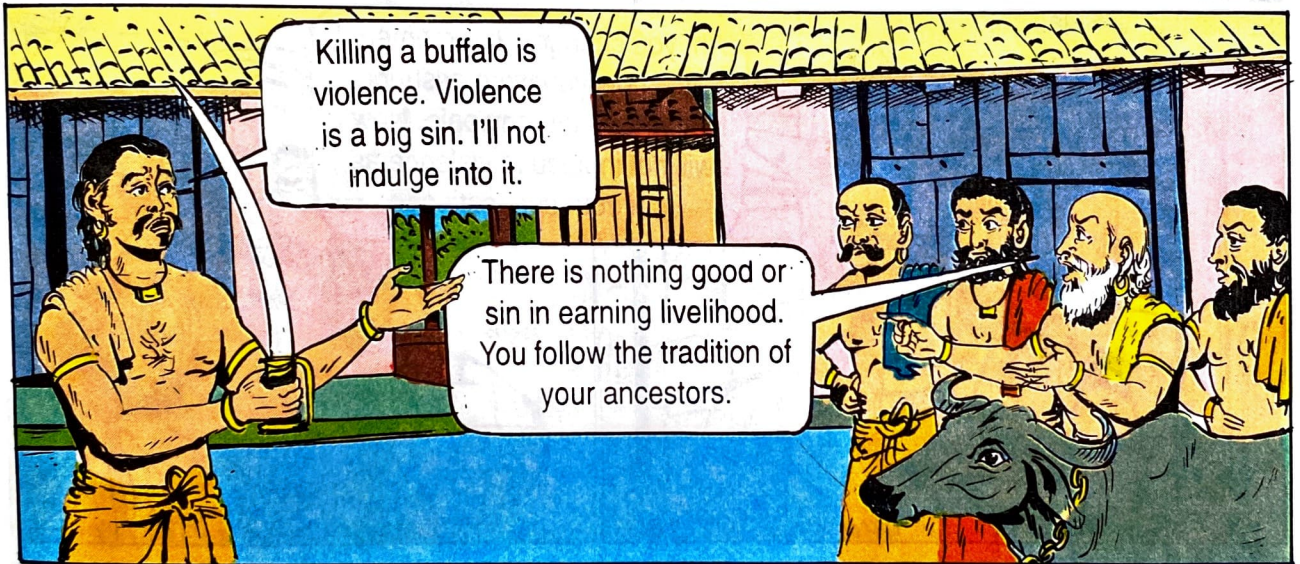
One day, Kaal Shaukarik Fell seriously ill. He started screaming with pain. Sulas tried to reduce his pain by applying an ointment made of sandal etc. but the pain did not reduce.



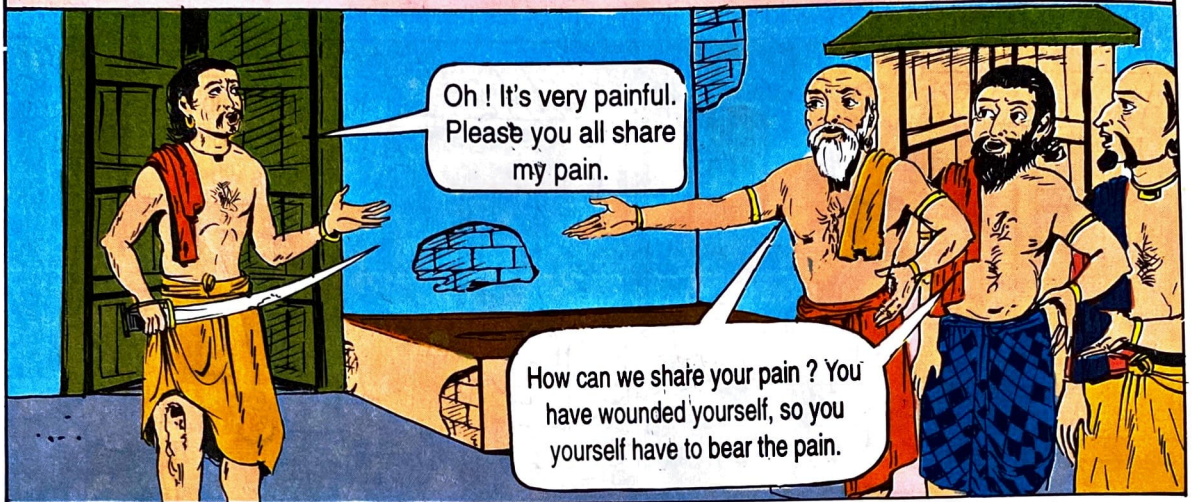
Disappointed Sulas went to Abhay. He explained his father's condition. Abhay replied—



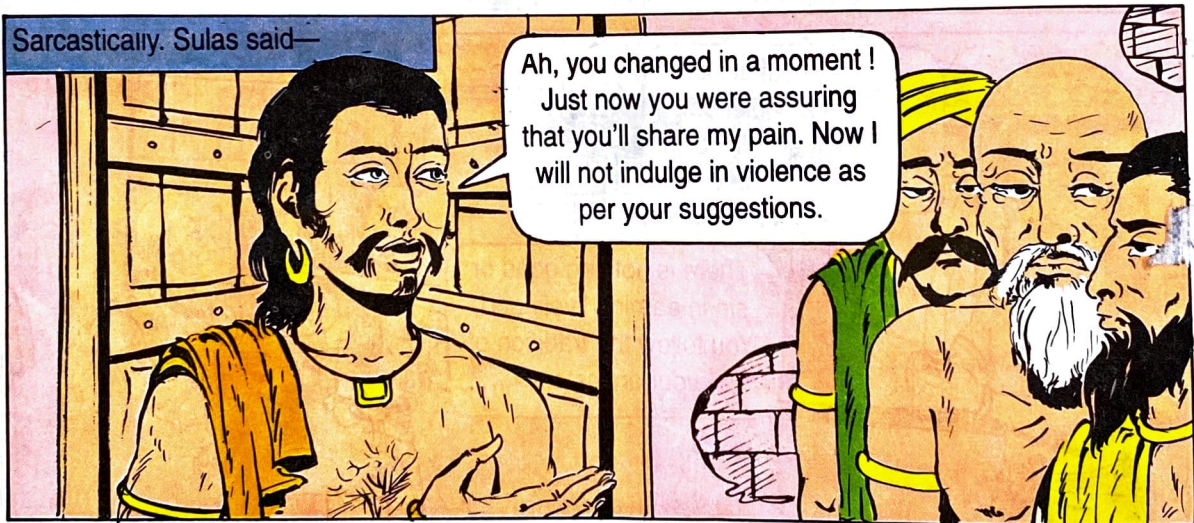
After a few days, Kaal Shaukarik died. The relatives of Sulas insisted him to take charge of his father's business. They held a buffalo in front of his house and gave him a sword. Then they told him—



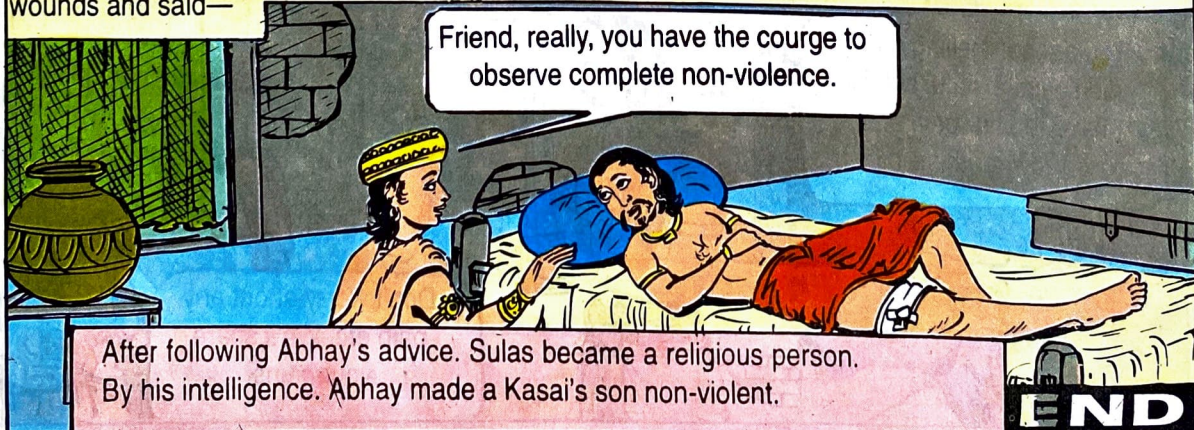
Sulas looked around and struck the sword into his thigh. He started bleeding profusely.



Sarcastically, Sulas said—



Till then Abhay had received the news of the event. He came there. He dressed his wounds and said—



END

Dear friends,

By this time you must have learnt something about Jainism. I try my best to explain the points to you in the simplest possible way. Even then, if you find difficult understanding any point, do take the guidance from your parents or pathshala teachers:

(5) What is KARMA in Jainism ?

In Sanskrit literature the word KARMA ordinarily stands for action, but in Jain philosophy it has a different meaning. It is the relationship of the soul with matter which causes and constitutes the cycle of birth and death. This relationship is determined by the force of KARMA. KARMA is a substance, a sort of sub-atomic particle that binds itself to the soul through the activity of body, mind or speech. The particles which assume the form of body, mind or speech give rise to vibrations in the soul whereby an infinite number of subtle atoms is attracted and assimilated by the soul. The assimilated group of atoms is known as KARMAS. The effect of KARMA is visible in the multifarious conditions of the mundane soul. As a magnet draws iron filings towards itself due to its magnetic force, so the soul's psychic experiences of infatuation, anger, pride, deceit and greed attract karmic molecules and it becomes polluted by these KARMAS. This psychic experience is the instrumental cause of this transformation of matter into a KARMA.

(6) What is the four-fold order ?

A TIRTHANKARA is the founder of the four-fold order called SANGHA or society. For the spiritual welfare of all creatures he expounds the philosophy and organises and establishes this order. This SANGHA consists of monks and nuns and of lay followers male and female. The monks are called SADHUS and the nuns are called SADHVIS. The male lay followers are called the SRAVAKAS and the female lay followers are called the SRAVIKAS. This four-fold society together is called Tirtha and that is the reason for the name TIRTHANKARA.

(7) What are the codes of conduct for a monk or a nun?

When an aspirant is initiated into the order as a monk or a nun he or she has to take certain vows. They solemnly take the five great vows of discipline and austerity. Which are :

(A) **AHIMSA** : They do not kill any living being with thought, word or deed. In order to keep this vow, the ascetic is expected to be careful in walking, watchful in speaking and cautious in his or her daily conduct and behaviour.

(B) **SATYA** : Not to lie under any circumstances and always to think before speaking.

(C) **ACHAURYA** : Never to steal. They must not take things without permission or without being given by the owner.

(D) **BRAHMACHARYA** : To observe celibacy or to remain chaste.

(E) **APARIGRAHA** : Never to have attachment for anything and never to accumulate. The monks and nuns do not keep money with them. They do not possess any wealth, houses or nay movable or immovable property. In this way, they limit their greed by limiting their need.

As a bird gets rid of the dust with which it is covered by shaking itself, so the monks and nuns observing these vows and practising austerities, consume and eliminate their KARMAS and attain liberation.

(8) What is the code of conduct for a householder ?

SRAVAKAS and SRAVIKAS, while remaining as Grihasthas (householders), carrying on their worldly duties and conforming to some noble principles and rules of conduct, also pursue the path of self-realization and spiritual elevation. They are not required to renounce the world but are expected to discharge household duties by honest means and to live a progressively pure life. To build healthy and strong conduct they are recommended to avoid the eighteen pitfalls, which are :

1. Not to harm any moving life.
2. Not to speak untruth.
3. Not to steal.
4. Not to indulge in adultery.
5. Not to possess beyond one's bare needs.
6. To avoid being angry.
7. To be free from pride and vanity.
8. To avoid decept.
9. To avoid avarice.
10. To be free from attachment.
11. To avoid harboring hatred and grudge.
12. To avoid strife.
13. To refrain from allegation and imputations.
14. Not to back-bite.
15. Not to slander.
16. To maintain balance between indulgence and aversion.
17. Not to use deceitful language.
18. Not knowing and not accepting the true doctrines.

In this way they will be free, free from the bondage of KARMAS, free from ignorance and suffering, helps an individual to abstain from their harmful activities.

Jai Jinendra

Pramoda Chitrabhanu

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